

THE TIMES

No 64,012

TUESDAY MAY 7 1991

40p

Education in the election spotlight

Labour to stop schools opting out 'on day one'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Conservative and Labour parties were last night locked in head-on confrontation over grant-maintained schools, leaving hundreds of schools in confusion.

The government is urging schools considering opting out to go ahead, arguing that sheer weight of numbers will prevent Labour returning them to local authority control. But Jack Straw warned them yesterday that if they did, they would lose their financial advantages on the day Labour came to power.

The Opposition education spokesman said there would be no safety in numbers. All grant-maintained schools would be returned to council control, regardless of how many had opted out. "The larger the number, the more urgent it would be to restore some sensible planning to finance and education," Mr Straw said in an interview with *The Times*. "There has been a great deal of wishful thinking and a campaign of deliberate misinformation to

suggest that we would not hand schools back to local authorities... We will do it."

The conflict ensures that education will be a key issue in both parties' general election campaigns and means that the future of many schools will remain uncertain for months.

There are now 75 grant-maintained schools, with a further 65 awaiting a decision from Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. Parental ballots are being held in another 75. Some schools have postponed ballots because of the uncertainty, but others have been convinced by the argument that Labour would change its mind if enough opt out.

Mr Clarke wants most of the 4,000 secondary schools in England and Wales to opt out, and he believes that the steady flow of applications will turn into a flood. His view that Labour will not carry out its threat if enough opt out is supported by Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, who said: "I suspect that between 200 and 300 will schools will be sufficient, although it might require up to 400. If enough do come out in the inner city areas, it will concentrate a few minds."

Mr Straw, who estimated that no more than 300 of the 24,000 schools in England and Wales would have opted out by the time of the general election, insisted yesterday that that was not the case. "We will level the playing field on day one, treating all schools as if they were with the local authority and introduce legislation in the first year," he said. "We would expect to see an end to grant-maintained schools within 18 months."

Mr Straw accepted that Labour's policy, which is supported by the Liberal Democrats, could antagonise some traditional supporters who have voted in favour of

schools becoming grant-maintained. "This is not a matter of pique, but because there is an overwhelming case for planning the system locally and for ensuring that all children get a fair deal. You cannot do that if schools opt out," he said.

The churches could have their schools back if they wanted them. He refused, however, to say whether selective schools run by non-church foundations would be given the same option.

Graham Locke, headmaster of Audenshaw High School, Tameside, Greater Manchester, one of the first schools to opt out in 1989, said: "There are schools like my own where the parents vote Labour. I can't see them, though, voting to return their schools to something they had before and had decided to change. It is a bit of an insult to say to the same people that they are entitled to vote for the government but that they are not fit to vote for the way they want their schools to be run."

Schools that opt out receive a number of grants and an extra 16 per cent a year to cover the costs of central services previously provided by the local authority. That often represents more than the real costs, giving the schools a considerable advantage over council-run schools.

Mr Straw is also concerned that grant-maintained schools have fared better in grants for improvements to their buildings and facilities. This year, 56 grant-maintained schools are sharing £10.5 million compared with an estimated £670 million spent on council and voluntary-aided schools.

The government argues that many of the schools were neglected by the local authority, with some facing closure or reorganisation, so that extra money was essential to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

Soviet troops 'kill dozens' in Armenia

FROM ROBERT SEELY, YEREVAN AND BRUCE CLARK, MOSCOW

DOZENS of people were killed when a village in Armenia was completely destroyed yesterday by Soviet troops using tanks, helicopters and heavy artillery, according to Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the republic's president. He said the Kremlin had virtually declared war on his people.

The attack on the village of Voskepar in the northeast marked a sharp increase in punitive military operations by Soviet and Azeri forces against Armenian communities accused by Moscow of sheltering illegal armed bands. The raid was also the first on a village in Armenia. Previous attacks have been on Armenian villages in Azerbaijan.

Mr Ter-Petrosyan said every house in the village had been destroyed. All the agricultural plots and woodland in the immediate vicinity had been burned out. "There have been dozens of deaths," he said, adding that helicopters



had also strafed several villages in the south of the republic.

Earlier Mr Ter-Petrosyan said he held Moscow's hard-line interior minister, Boris Pugo, personally responsible for last week's bloody raids by the security forces on two villages in Azerbaijan. He suggested as well that President Gorbachev, whom he met in Moscow at the weekend, had connived in the attack on the villages.

Gorbachev welcome, page 10



Gesture from the past: an elderly Prague woman kisses the hand of the Princess of Wales during the royal walkabout in Wenceslas Square

Helping Baghdad back on its feet

Businessmen and profiteers hungry for fat contracts are flocking to the Iraqi capital. Adam Kelliker reports

The first foreign businessmen, dressed in three-piece suits, have arrived in Baghdad for their hoped-for audiences with officials empowered to grant the first reconstruction contracts, when and if the United Nations embargo is lifted. "The war occurred and an instant market opened," one of the businessmen said. "The amount that has to be done out there is absolutely extraordinary."

For a profiteer, Iraq offers much to do over a time will soon come when the country's pre-war stores will run out and the effort to make do will come to a stop.

As Baghdad bounces back after the Gulf war and ensuing domestic turmoil, labourers wearing turbans to fend off the first blasts of summer heat deftly install the power line that will restore electricity to yet another area of the capital which has been without electricity for three months. Hoshi Mulsini, the foreman, said: "Some parts are missing, but we are working harder in order to cover for the lacking parts, and we are retrieving some older bits and pieces."

At the end of the war a UN delegate described Baghdad as being like an athlete who had been in an accident and was brain-dead: his body intact and pristine, but receiving no messages because all thought control had gone. But the city of four million people is really more like an old drunk the morning after a particularly severe night, its robust character ensuring a swift recovery but a certain toll.

Continued on page 20, col 1

Bush leaves hospital to get back to business

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush was discharged from hospital and resumed his normal working schedule at the White House yesterday, in spite of an early morning recurrence of the irregular heartbeat that had caused worldwide concern over the weekend.

His doctors decided at a 5.30am meeting not to carry out the electric shock therapy that would have meant Dan Quayle, the vice-president, would have been acting president for short time yesterday. The preparations for that eventuality, including letters to congressional leaders, had



"Feeling fine": Mr Bush out of hospital yesterday

already been made. The doctors' decision to discharge Mr Bush, aged 66, after 38 hours in hospital also helped alleviate political and economic jitters in the United States and abroad. The doctors denied, however, that they had been influenced by political considerations.

Mr Bush's condition was first diagnosed after he complained of feeling tired and breathless while jogging at Camp David on Saturday afternoon. Doctors said that his heartbeat, normally in the mid-sixties, was in the high nineties when he arrived at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, in Washington. It finally responded to medication at 10.45 on Sunday evening, but returned to an irregular beat at 4.45am yesterday. At 9.30am, after he had returned to the White House, it returned to normal again.

Mr Bush will be constantly monitored at the White House during the next few days and he will have to take digoxin and procainamide drugs for the foreseeable future. He has been told to stop his strenuous exercise programme for about

a week until correct dosages are established, but he intends to pursue his full work schedule. The cause of Mr Bush's atrial fibrillation remains a mystery and his doctors said they could not predict whether it would recur.

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that Mr Bush had complained of fatigue while jogging at least twice before during the past fortnight. Dr Burton Lee, his physician, said Mr Bush had complained of "getting older" in the past fortnight, and his doctors said he might have been suffering from atrial fibrillation for some days.

As he returned to the White House, Mr Bush said he felt "real good". He said he intended "to gradually get back into the athletics and not overdo it, so we won't run today". He expressed his full support for Mr Quayle.

Peter Stothard, page 11
Leading article, page 15

A place of which we now know much

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN PRAGUE

UNDER the eye of a small but friendly crowd, the Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday attempted to exorcise the ghost of Neville Chamberlain, who dismissed Czechoslovakia as a faraway place of which we knew little when he put his name to that piece of paper in Munich in 1938.

On the first day of their official visit to Prague, the royal couple laid a wreath at the base of King Wenceslas's great bronze statue, where the Czechoslovak Republic was declared in 1918. It is a potent site in the national consciousness. They walked a few yards to a more informal memorial, where fresh flowers still commemorate Jan Palach and other martyrs of the dark years of communist oppression and Soviet invasion.

During a brief walkabout in Continued on page 20, col 3

War ceremony, page 3
Royal stock, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Wrangle over venue delays Ulster talks

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first round-table inter-party talks for 16 years on the future of Northern Ireland have been delayed because of a wrangle over where they should take place.

Instead of opening a plenary session with delegations from the province's main parties in Belfast this morning, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, is expected to hold a further round of bilateral discussions in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

The second stage of the three-tier talks involves the Irish government meeting Unionist and nationalist politicians to discuss links between Belfast and Dublin. The Unionist parties want them to

be held in London while the Irish government and the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour party favour Dublin and Belfast.

Mr Brooke is understood to be insisting that agreement on the venue must be reached before the first face-to-face negotiations between Unionist and nationalist politicians start at Stormont.

One way of breaking the deadlock without offending the sensitivities of all sides would be to look abroad. Yesterday there were signs from Dublin that an acceptable compromise could be to hold talks between the Unionist leaders and the Irish government at Strasbourg.

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Feeling washed out on the banks of the Nile

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading for the pyramids this summer would be well advised to stock up with a plentiful supply of potions. According to a readers' survey in the Consumers' Association magazine *Holiday Which?*, 60 per cent of 155 holidays taken in Egypt resulted in illness, making the country, trying hard to attract more tourists, easily the worst place to visit for anyone wanting to remain fit and healthy.

The Gambia came second in the sickness league, with 47 per cent of holidaymakers reporting illness. The healthiest countries to visit, according to the survey, are Sweden, Ireland and The Netherlands,

where only 3 per cent of respondents said they were ill. Overall, 16 per cent of all holidaymakers fell ill, with stomach upsets accounting for 63 per cent of all sickness.

Theft is a particular problem in Latin America, where thieves struck in 11.5 per cent of holidays. No one who visited the Gambia had anything stolen but 8.3 per cent were threatened with violence or were mugged during their visit to the increasingly popular West African country. Nearly 8 per cent of visitors to Morocco reported problems of violence or threats, but for the vast majority of the 36 countries reported on in the survey the threat of violence affected

Country	% falling ill
Egypt	60
Gambia	47
Turkey	45
Latin America	45
Bulgaria	40
Thailand	36
Tunisia	35
Malaysia	33
Morocco	33
West Indies	27

less than 1 per cent of visitors and in 11 countries there was not a hint of it.

One reader described how she missed the high spot of her trip to Egypt, the Valley Of the

Country	% falling ill
Sweden	3
Ireland	3
Netherlands	3
W Germany	6
Belgium	6
Canada	7
Austria	7
Switzerland	8
Italy	9
Denmark	10

Kings, near Luxor, because she became ill. On her return to England, she became weaker and weaker and the problem, caused by a parasite, *Giardia lamblia*, took ten

weeks to clear up. It had been living in water used for drinking or cooking food. The magazine advises tourists to drink boiled or bottled water, eat freshly cooked dishes, and avoid food such as shellfish and ice cream.

Many other recommendations appear to be sheer common sense - using insect repellent, not approaching animals when there is a risk of rabies, watching out for snakes and scorpions nestling in shoes. Tourists unaccustomed to heat should take it easy until they have adjusted, and should limit sunbathing at first, building up gradually.

May Day report, page 3

TODAY IN THE TIMES

THE ARTS

Debra Crane wonders who benefits from commercial sponsorship of ballet, opera - the companies or the company? Page 13

HEALTH

Philip Basset finds, at Guy's hospital, a will to make healthcare work as a business, without being a slave to profits Page 14

HUMOUR

Craig Brown of Dodd-Gro Enterprises lands himself a PR job promoting the delights of that wild and crazy tourist hot spot, hell Page 14

Arsenal's title

Arsenal won the league championship last night before they touched a ball in their game with Manchester United. An hour before, Liverpool, the reigning champions, had lost 3-1 to Nottingham Forest, killing off their challenge. Page 36

Holiday deaths

Although the bank holiday weather was cold and cloudy yesterday, there were several traffic jams across the country and eight people were killed in road accidents. Page 3

Army's battle

The Bangladesh army is trying to bring order to the relief operation along the coast devastated by a cyclone and there are calls in the country for a more efficient warning system. Page 11

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WHITEHALL BRIEF: Richard Ford

Semi-detached units struggle to shrug off interference

THE prime minister's efficiency unit is expected to accuse some government departments of reluctance to give up central control of parts of the Whitehall machine that have been transformed into semi-independent units.

The unit's report, to be published later this month, is likely to highlight several difficulties in relations between parent departments and the agencies, including widespread criticism that the links are too bureaucratic. A number of chief executives appointed to run the semi-autonomous agencies, which are intended to provide

better services to the public, have complained of the continuing 'hands on' attitude of parent departments.

The enquiry, by Sir Angus Fraser, the prime minister's adviser on efficiency, has focused on the relationship between parent departments and the agencies. His report is expected to emphasise the importance of developing links between the parent department and its agencies to prevent second guessing and allow the agency to work with the minimum interference from Whitehall.

The difficulties facing the government's drive to transform large

New government agencies are unhappy at the overly bureaucratic regime of parent departments, Our Political Correspondent writes

chunks of Whitehall into agencies are outlined in an internal study carried out in the transport department. It said there was duplication of decision-making and an absence of trust between the department and the Vehicle

Inspectorate Agency, the Driving Standards Agency and the Vehicle Certificate Agency.

The agencies accused the central department in Whitehall of being heavy handed and unnecessarily bureaucratic, making excessive demands for information and refusing to allow them to develop new areas of business.

In the key areas of allocating resources, setting targets and monitoring work, the three agencies said there was excessive delay in dealing with matters, particularly when the central department insisted on being involved. "The agencies are unanimous in

complaining that the amount of control exercised by the centre has increased rather than decreased since they were set up. They say that they are asked for a great deal of detailed information which is costly and time consuming to provide. This runs counter to the agency culture by implying that agencies cannot be trusted to run their own affairs. It results in a tendency for agencies to withhold information because its provision is likely to lead to yet further questions," says the report.

The relationship between departmental staff and those in the agencies tended to be "confron-

tational, with the agencies feeling that the department is not identifying itself as it should with their aims and successes", the report adds. Limits on the amount and type of information that officials at the centre can demand from agencies, the fostering of mutual trust, and giving the three units greater autonomy in staff management are also recommended.

The report says one official should be given the task of managing relations with the agencies. It would encourage a greater sense of common purpose, and clarify lines of responsibility and accountability.

Ministers to curb homes loophole

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE government is becoming increasingly concerned about its soaring social security bill after moves by local authorities to transfer their residential homes to private ownership, in order to obtain state benefits.

At the same time, ministers are being pressed by private and voluntary homes, and organisations representing the elderly, to raise benefit levels in homes. Today the social security select committee is taking evidence from health and social services bodies on the gap between benefit and costs.

Although the social security bill for homes is now more than £1 billion, the homes claim that income support payments, ranging from £160 to £255 for those who cannot afford the fees, are well below the running costs of the homes — between £185 and £307.

In some cases homes have gone bankrupt and in others they have asked residents to top up the difference. Although fees for nursing homes rose by £45 a week on April 1, those for residential homes went up by only £5. After a quadrupling of the numbers of places in private homes in the last nine years, the government is understandably reluctant to increase payments.

Social security ministers are understood to be looking at ways of closing the loophole which allows transfer of ownership of homes.

Earlier this year Somerset council handed its 26 homes to a non-profit making company which it had set up. However a draft report from the audit commission, passed to *The Times*, warns that "central government may amend the income support regulations to ensure that no additional costs fall on central funds."

Maintenance plan attacked as 'mean'

Six out of ten children will be no better off after the government introduces plans to chase maintenance payments from absent fathers, according to a report published today (Jill Sherman writes).

For children of single parents on benefit, that ratio rises to nine out of ten, the report from the Family Policy Studies Centre says. The centre accuses the government of being "mean-minded and penny pinching" over its plans that will benefit the Treasury more than lone-parent families. Under the child support bill, which passes to the Commons this week, a child support agency will be set up to track down absent fathers. Those fathers will have to pay maintenance according to a formula, which will be deducted pound for pound from lone parents who receive income support.

Unfair title

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission has ruled that the title of a Channel 4 Equinox documentary on techniques claimed to alter a person's state of mind was unfair. The programme was screened in October under the title *The Mind Benders*. Two practitioners of a technique called Home-Sync complained that they agreed to take part on the understanding that it would be called *Open Mind*.

Petrol increase

Rural-based Irish drivers are to face higher motoring costs because a government decision to remove price controls on petrol and diesel oil is expected to reduce the number of petrol pumps in Ireland later this year. Most of the closures will be in country areas, as oil companies will be allowed to charge more for deliveries — a factor that will be reflected in the cost of a gallon.

Kurdish concert

The Princess of Wales is to attend a pop concert organised to raise money for Kurdish refugees and victims of war on Sunday. The concert at Wembley Arena is the centrepiece of the £10 million British Red Cross Simple Truth Appeal. Performers will include Chris de Burgh, Sinéad O'Connor, MC Hammer, Peter Gabriel, New Kids on the Block, Rod Stewart, Paul Simon, and Sting.

Local policing system to be introduced in London

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard is introducing a radical new policing system for London over the next two years which will see officers much more closely to the communities they police, give them greater power to tailor policing to local needs and increase crime detection.

The Yard is adopting a system known as total geographic policing, first introduced in Surrey two years ago. London's police divisions will be divided into sectors, each with its own teams responsible for policing 24 hours a day. The system, part of the Plus programme to improve London policing, has already been introduced in parts of Brixton, where it is said to be very successful in improving links with the local community. The formation of a strong liaison between police and the community is said to have played a central role in removing many of the area's

public order problems. Total geographic policing is seen by the Yard as a response to calls from the public for a return to the traditional local officer on the beat who knew and was known by the people he policed.

Under the system the teams, each led by a sergeant, are answerable to an inspector in charge of the sector. The police will liaise with a sector community group based on local neighbourhood watches or residents' and tenants' organisations. Each sector will be supported by operations, information and technology from the local stations. Emergency cover will be available from divisional headquarters or the Yard. The system calls for a graded response to calls depending on their urgency and places fresh emphasis on crime prevention.

Scotland Yard has agreements to change working practices to allow for more flexible cover by the sector officers. Improved liaison is hoped to lead to better information which the police could use to reduce crime.

Total geographic policing grew out of experiments in Skelmersdale, Lancashire, in the early 1980s which led to a two-tier system. Some officers worked in the normal way on patrol and answering calls; others concentrated on particular areas working more flexibly.

Complaints watchdog 'may be needed'

By STEWART TENDLER

A POLICE complaints ombudsman may be needed to keep the public informed and reassured that the complaints investigation system is working properly, according to Roland Moyle, who retired last week as head of the Police Complaints Authority's investigation section.

Unless the PCA does more to sell itself to the public, the authority may founder, Mr Moyle said. Politicians who believed that the PCA lacks public confidence would create a completely independent investigation system, rather than using the police, supervised by the PCA. This, however, would take years to establish, and would be expensive and not very practical.

Mr Moyle, deputy chairman of the PCA since its inception in 1985, said: "The supervision of investigation by the authority as an experiment has been technically successful. I believe investigations are done properly and efficiently. The real problem is to get the public to appreciate this."

If the PCA chairman were a parliamentary commissioner he would gain extra independence, Mr Moyle said, and be responsible to a Commons select committee and talk to MPs across the political spectrum. They could then inform their constituents.

Mr Moyle said that the authority had yet to comment on investigations into police misconduct in Notting Hill, which began in 1985, or investigations started in 1988 into Scotland Yard's operations against football hooligans. Faced with silence, the public became critical. However, Mr Moyle said, the PCA's work-rate was good.

The creation of an independent unit totally removed from the police could speed up work because the PCA would control priorities rather than relying on police. It might also create higher Chinese walls between investigation of complaints and investigation of a complainant. However, Mr Moyle sees the idea as a last resort. "It would be fairly horrendous and would mean setting up an organization about the size of a force of 1,000 officers. The PCA costs about £3 million a year but this would be about £40 million."

Mr Moyle, a former Labour MP, said the PCA could have increased social harmony more if it were more open.



Shopping for votes: the actress Prunella Scales endorses Haw Edwards, the Labour candidate, as he campaigns for support in Abergavenny

No names, but the line from Monmouth is clear

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WITH less than two weeks of campaigning left in the Monmouth by-election, Labour yesterday decided it was time to remind the voters of their late Tory MP's record.

No name was mentioned. There was not even the merest hint of criticism of Sir John Stradling Thomas. Such dis-

tasteful attacks on the dead could prove counterproductive in Labour's drive to overturn a 9,350 majority.

Few, however, who heard the Labour candidate's description of what he believed were the duties of an MP doubted whose record he had in mind.

Sir John, dubbed "silent knight" because of his lack of Commons interventions, had been accused by constituents

of a reluctance to ask parliamentary questions.

Haw Edwards, Labour's candidate, said the government had neglected the largely rural constituency even though Monmouth had returned a Tory for 21 years.

"Electors in the constituency want an MP with a full-time commitment to the job. We need a strong voice to make sure this constituency's views

are heard. We need a representative who is approachable and available for help."

He sought to undermine his Tory opponent, Roger Evans, a barrister. At his daily press conference in Chepstow, Mr Edwards, aged 38, said: "We need an MP who will work full-time as Monmouth's representative, without any other sideline."

He promised that if he won he would open a properly staffed constituency office and hold regular advice surgeries and make sure everyone in Monmouth knew what he had done in parliament.

General election 1987: Sir John Stradling Thomas (Con) 22,387; K. Goss (Lab) 13,037; C. Lindley (SDP/All) 11,313; S. Meredith (PC) 363. Majority 9,350.

Laird deals blow to Labour over pay bargain reforms

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR'S hopes of winning employee support for wage bargaining reforms under a future Labour government were dealt a blow by the leader of the AEU engineering union yesterday.

Gavin Laird, general secretary of the moderate Amalgamated Engineering Union, attacked the latest version of the TUC's detailed proposals on its plan with Labour for a National Economic Assessment to settle questions about pay, training, investment and the national minimum wage.

Conservative ministers say Labour's plans for the economy fail to address the question of pay. Labour and TUC leaders have been edging towards an acceptable deal on pay, to the consternation of both union left-wingers, who feel it smacks of an incomes policy, and some right-wing leaders of craft unions, who are concerned that such an agreement could hold down high-pay differentials.

Union leaders recognise that Labour is likely to favour the proposal only if the unions



Laird: supports free collective bargaining

are broadly united on it for fear of damaging the party's election chances.

The TUC was therefore pleased when it won agreement from all its main unions — including the AEU — to the idea of a national economic assessment which would look at the economy each autumn, decide broadly what could be afforded and apportion money accordingly.

AEU leaders said they could not agree to a minimum wage

as part of the deal if that meant any kind of enforced restriction on freely negotiated pay rises. The TUC eventually found a compromise which said that a minimum wage would not prevent any union from negotiating a rate for the job.

But now the unions have agreed to it, Mr Laird — a strong supporter of free collective bargaining — has attacked the agreement as an attempt to reconcile two "incompatibles" — a national minimum wage and free bargaining.

In a statement, he said that the assessment would have to ensure incentives and assistance to manufacturing industry, European standards of employee participation and a big increase in training. If Labour did not deliver this, Mr Laird said, "you can forget the minimum wage."

The assessment is likely to face further criticism at a TUC conference in London tomorrow on the future role of trade unions.

Phil Jones, page 7

Firms ready to help Kuwaiti schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH consortium has stolen a march on rivals for contracts to restore Kuwait's education system. Manufacturers of scientific equipment stand to make millions of pounds from negotiations due to start this week.

Foreign companies have been queuing for construction contracts. But the Gulf war left most schools undamaged structurally. Only a science research institute used by Iraq as a strategic command centre was destroyed by bombing.

However, equipment worth millions of pounds has been looted. Schools were used as barracks for Iraqi troops, and many are still littered with ammunition. The British Education Consortium for Kuwait, led by the British Council, was the only organisation prepared to offer a full range of services to enable schools and colleges to reopen in August.

A team led by Sir Timothy Raison, MP, the council's vice-chairman, held talks with Kuwaiti government officials

last month. The consortium, which also includes the education department, John Laing, and Ove Arup, has been invited to tender for five contracts. As well as supplying and installing equipment, it would start up nursery and creche facilities to enable Kuwaiti women to replace expatriate teachers in girls' schools, and develop library and information resources.

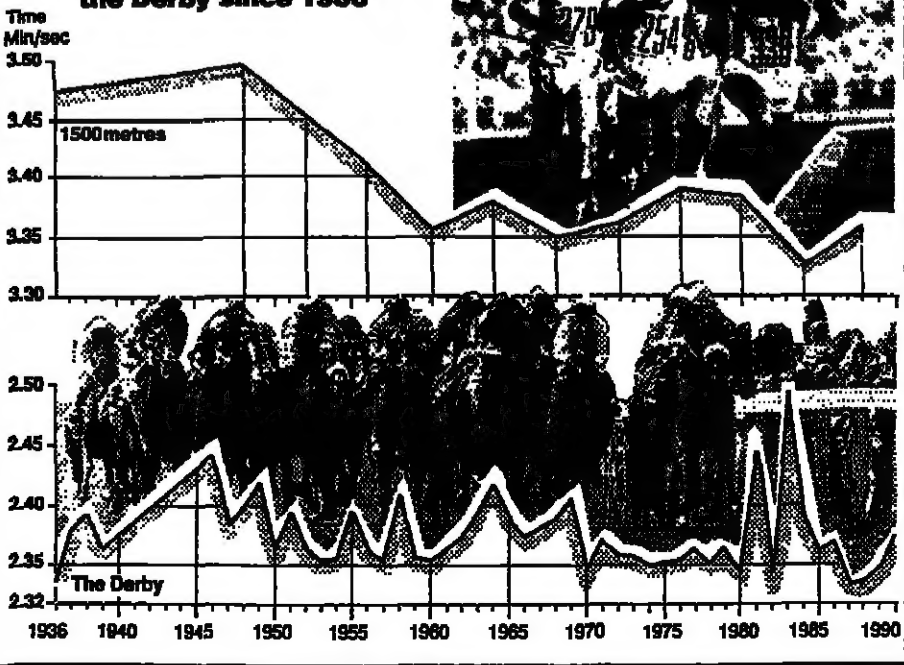
Mr Thomas Craig-Cameron, head of the council's educational contracts department, who will lead the negotiations, said: "The Kuwaitis were attracted by our ability to offer impartial advice; there are no manufacturers in the consortium. They want to make up for the lost school year by opening early and having two crash semesters."

The consortium has also been asked to make long-term proposals. More Kuwaitis will need technical training if there is to be less reliance on expatriate labour, and changes are being considered in secondary education as a result.

Thoroughbreds beaten by the lactic acid test of time

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

How they compare: winning times for the Olympic 1500 metres and the Derby since 1936



TOP racehorses have hit a physiological ceiling that is preventing them from improving their times in the English classics, an Irish professor of animal genetics has concluded. To overcome it, different breeding and training methods will be needed.

The most likely reason for the stagnation in performance in the Derby, the Oaks and the St Leger is what human fitness enthusiasts call "feeling the burn" — the build-up of lactic acid in the muscles as a result of the breakdown of glycogen during prolonged exercise.

Patrick Cunningham, writing in *Scientific American*, argues that the lactic acid limit is the most likely reason why performance has stagnated over longer distances while it continues to improve over the sprints. St Leger times have not improved since 1910, and Mahmoud set the record for the Derby in 1936.

On the assumption that track performance is about 35

per cent inherited, Professor Cunningham and Barry Gaffney, of Trinity College, Dublin, have worked out how rapidly it ought to be improving. Their figure agrees remarkably well with the times in the Timeform ratings for more than 11,000 three-year-old thoroughbreds.

"Yet, contrary to our conclusion, the fact remains that modern thoroughbreds are not bettering the times of their forebears in the English classic races," Professor Cunningham writes. "If steady genetic improvement is occurring, how can we explain static winning times?"

There are, he says, two possibilities. One is that horses cannot circulate blood quickly enough to carry oxygen to the muscles to regenerate adenosine triphosphate, the molecular fuel for muscle contraction. Evidence suggests, however, that a horse's blood flow can rise in line with exercise so a failure of oxygen supply does not seem likely.

More probable, Professor Cunningham suggests, is the lactic acid wall. During prolonged exercise, a horse depends on a second source of muscle power, the breakdown of glycogen in the absence of oxygen to create lactic acid. The evidence is, he says, that at a horse's maximum effort, the elimination of lactic acid from the muscles lags and sets a limit to performance.

None of this is new to athletes, who for years have been devising ways of improving the lactic acid clearance rate. Racehorse trainers have not so far tried to do so.

A second approach might be to select more efficient lactic acid metabolism in breeding. The real obstacle is that nobody much cares that times have stagnated. The prizes go to the winners, regardless of times. If human athletes took the same view, the mile record would still be four minutes six seconds, as it was the year Mahmoud won the Derby.

مكتبة القرآن الكريم

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 7 1991

EC plans sweeping controls on tobacco advertising

By ALICE THOMSON

Tobacco advertising in newspapers, magazines and on hoardings may be banned within the next two years. The European Commission meets today to consider the proposed ban on the recommendation of the health and social affairs commissioner, Vasso Papandreu, of Greece, who is one of the few heavy smokers in the commission. Last November she won approval for sweeping new controls on the labelling of tobacco products. Now she is pushing for member states to ban all written promotion of tobacco products.

The 17-member commission will be discussing a draft text for a directive to ban all printed cigarette advertising from July 1993 at the earliest. France, Portugal, Italy and Spain have already banned written tobacco advertising but the tobacco lobby is still formidable and Mrs Papandreu faces stiff opposition. Governments in The Netherlands, Germany, Britain and Denmark believe that self-regulation is a better option. In Britain smoking is a



Papandreu: the heavy smoker who wants a ban

multi-million pound business. The ban would knock an estimated £60 million a year off the balance sheets of advertising agencies, who could lose some of their biggest accounts. Advertising Association figures show that newspapers face losing about £50 million a year in advertising revenue and weekend colour supplements £18 million a year. The Treasury earns £6 billion a

year from VAT and duty on tobacco, although anti-smoking groups believe patients who smoke cost the NHS £500 million a year. A ban would delight anti-smoking campaigners who want all promotional activities by tobacco companies to be stopped. Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) brought out a report last year called "Smoke still gets in my eyes," which stated that £10 million alone was spent on advertising in women's magazines in 1989 and that seven million women between 15 and 24 were regularly exposed to tobacco advertisements in magazines. The report said that 35,000 women die each year in Britain from smoking-related diseases. ASH also says that the tobacco industry needs to advertise because 300 new customers are needed daily to replace those lost to undertakers.

Two weeks ago health secretary William Waldegrave signed a three-year voluntary contract on promotion of cigarettes to remove half the permanent poster sites outside newsagents in the next five years. The industry is already forbidden to advertise on television and in cinemas. The department of health said yesterday: "The government has always taken the line that voluntary agreement is better than an outright ban".

The British Medical Association welcomed the initiative and said the government should stop making agreements with the tobacco industry and face up to its responsibilities for health. It said that a legal ban on all advertising was now long overdue.

Murder enquiry as accountant vanishes

By BILL FROST

POLICE will today resume their search for Simon Law, an accountant who they believe was abducted from his home in the village of Elmsted, Kent, last month. Det Supt Owen Taylor, who is leading the investigation, said yesterday: "We are treating this as a murder enquiry. Given the circumstances of Mr Law's disappearance, it has looked that way from the start."

Mr Law, aged 35, went missing from his 17th-century farmhouse just over a fortnight ago. Police are anxious to trace the occupants of a red Vauxhall Astra car seen in the village before and after the accountant went missing. Mr Taylor said the two men were South Africans. They are believed to have left the country soon after Mr Law's disappearance. Later this week detectives from the Kent force are due to fly to South Africa, where they will be investigating the accountant's business dealings with a cargo container leasing business.

Mr Law's girl friend, Tara Phillips, first became suspicious when he failed to join her in London for a dinner date. She drove to Elmsted and found the farmhouse empty. After speaking to neighbours Miss Phillips contacted police.

Last year the missing accountant was interviewed in London by a senior South African police officer and an official from the exchange control branch of the South African Reserve Bank. Mr Law was a witness helping with an enquiry into an alleged currency fraud involving leased cargo containers.

Miss Phillips said that she was convinced Mr Law had been abducted by contract killers hired in South Africa.



Pickles: in documentary while still a judge

Judge in TV call to legalise soft drugs

JUDGE Pickles is to make his case for legalising cannabis and other soft drugs in his own television programme. He will advocate sweeping changes to Britain's drug laws in a 40-minute BBC documentary that he has written and will present and narrate.

The outspoken judge will make his case in "Losing the Battle to Win the War", part of BBC2's new series of *Byline*, to be screened on June 11, three weeks before he retires from the bench.

Judge Pickles, aged 66, will review the argument for legalising all drugs - including heroin and cocaine - using evidence and interviews from addicts, a dealer, police in London and Amsterdam, and a psychiatrist. He will evaluate the cost-saving to Dutch police of not taking action against possession of cannabis for "own use".

Speaking from his home at Halifax, West Yorkshire,

Judge Pickles yesterday defended his decision to make the programme, and said: "The very fact that drugs are illegal drives up the prices. Racketeers move in, import and push the drugs and users have to steal to buy them."

There was no evidence that most people would use drugs if they were legalised, he said.

He said if the original account of the attack, taking place at night during the heat of a battle when visibility was poor, was to be believed "then we all understand that in terms of war these things can happen," said Mr Gillespie.

Warrior deaths 'hidden in red tape'

By RAY CLANCY

FAMILIES of three soldiers who died in the Gulf war when an American plane accidentally opened fire on the British 1st Armoured Brigade yesterday called on the government to release details of the official enquiry because of conflicting reports of the incident.

They said it was deplorable that the Ministry of Defence was refusing to give them details when its report was almost finished and that the United States Air Force had not yet completed its part of the enquiry.

"We want to know what happened when our sons died. The official statement given out by the army at the time conflicts widely with reports given to us by those who survived the attack. We believe red tape is holding things up," said Mel Gillespie, of Tynemouth, whose son, Fusilier Richard Gillespie, aged 19, died when an American A-10 plane attacked two Warrior armoured vehicles by mistake. A total of nine soldiers died in the incident during the battle to liberate Kuwait in February.

"It is nearly ten weeks now and all we have heard from the defence ministry is a deathly silence. They are serious questions to be addressed here." He said if the original account of the attack, taking place at night during the heat of a battle when visibility was poor, was to be believed "then we all understand that in terms of war these things can happen," said Mr Gillespie.

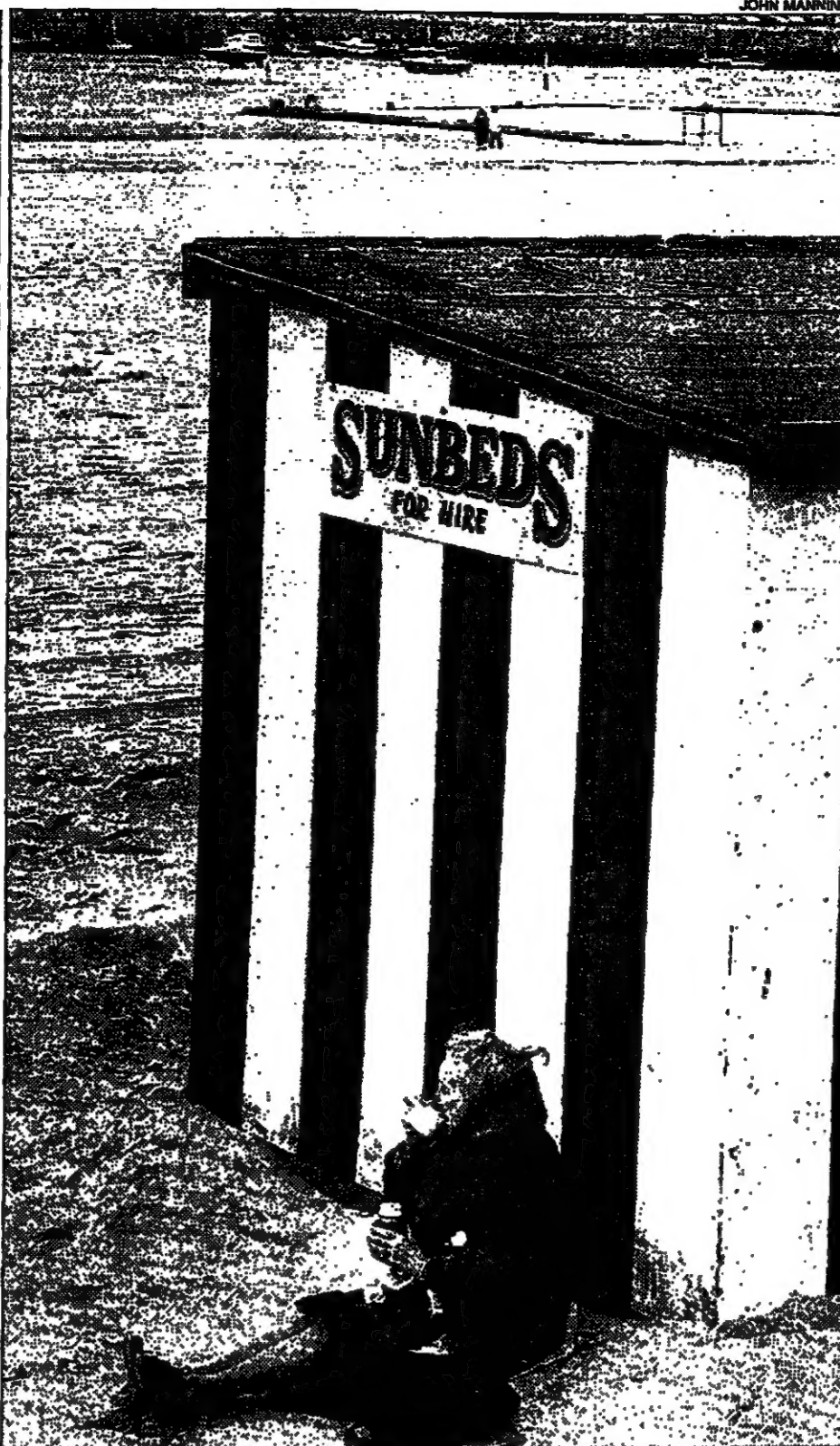
However, with the families of Fusilier Paul Atkinson, aged 19, of Co Durham, and Fusilier Kevin Leach, aged 20, of Prudhoe, Northumberland, Mr Gillespie is determined to find out all the details so that any shortcomings can be rectified.

"If it was simply a matter of markings not being visible then perhaps something can be done to make sure this sort of thing does not happen, perhaps better identification for friendly vehicles," he said. "If there is more to it we should be told."

Soldiers who survived the attack, including Mark Leach, aged 18, a Royal Fusilier, who saw his brother Kevin die, have told a very different story. According to them the Warriors were in a column of 72 vehicles that had been parked for about 40 minutes after completing an attack on a gun emplacement. They have said visibility was good, about five miles, and many of the soldiers were actually out of their vehicles resting when the American planes flew over at about 200ft. One plane came in a second time and fired the fatal missiles that hit the Warriors.

The families have taken legal advice to ensure the true version of events comes out. One option is to press for the inquiry, which was adjourned sine die, to be re-opened, but they would prefer simply to put "our minds at rest". A spokesman for the defence ministry said last night

that the report by the army was almost finished and details would be given to the families. "We are in contact with all the families and hope to be able to tell them exactly under what circumstances their sons died. The report might be made public but not necessarily in its entirety," he said, but was unable to say when. He confirmed that the enquiry was conducted jointly with the United States Air Force, which has not yet completed its investigation, and the results of that would have to be examined before making the official report public.



Beach for the brave: a hardy woman defying the elements at Margate yesterday

Eight die in bank holiday road crashes

By ROBIN YOUNG

EIGHT people died in road crashes yesterday as the bank holiday brought a familiar pattern of tailbacks and traffic jams in spite of chilly weather. Dean Thomas, aged 24, of Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, died after his Vauxhall Cavalier went out of control on a country lane between Woolford and Cherrington, Warwickshire. A 47-year-old woman was killed when she stepped into the path of a car on the A452 at Blackdown, Leamington.

Lawrence Western, aged 72, died after his BMW collided head-on with a Volvo on the A39 between Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Another driver, believed to be from Tamworth, Staffordshire, died when his Carlton collided with an Astra on the A460 at Wedges Mills, near Cannock.

Jamie Woods, aged 18, and Paul Moulton, aged 22, died when their Toyota pick-up crossed the central reservation and crashed on the A1 near Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Two people were killed and four seriously injured when a Colt saloon veered across the A338 into the path of a Volvo near Salisbury, Wiltshire. The man driving the Volvo and Ruth Haworth, aged 68, of Braunston, Leicestershire, a passenger in the Colt, were killed.

A parachutist was killed Tilstock Airfield, near Whitchurch, Shropshire, yesterday, when his parachute failed to open.

Police identified a 17-year-old boy whose clothed body was recovered from the sea near Criccieth, North Wales, as Stewart Davies of Wallasey, Merseyside, who had been staying at his parents' holiday chalet at Morfa Bychan, near Porthmadog. His wallet and jacket were missing.

An RAF helicopter rescued a holidaymaker who had broken his leg trying to climb up Beachy Head, Sandwich, in Kent, was sealed off by police as 11,000 people tried to get to an annual boat fair. Only residents were allowed past the roadblocks.

Long tailbacks were reported at Conway and Rhyl, north, east of St Asaph on the A55, last night as holiday-makers headed home.

Treatment by toxin benefits arthritic sufferers

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EXPERIMENTAL version of the anti-cancer drug interleukin-2 has significantly improved the condition of rheumatoid arthritis sufferers, American researchers say. The drug produced such remarkable benefits that one disabled woman was able to go dancing, and another said she felt "like Cinderella".

The genetically engineered drug combines an interleukin protein, derived from the human immune system, with the toxin released from the bacteria that cause diphtheria. The treatment, called fusion toxin, appears to seek out and destroy specific white blood cells that in rheumatoid arthritis mistakenly attack the lining tissue of joints.

Results of a pilot study of the drug, involving 13 patients, were presented at a meeting in Seattle of the American Society for Clinical Investigation by researchers in Boston. The patients, with severe forms of the disease, were given daily injections of the drug for a week. Four showed dramatic improvement, and eight had at least some response.

Lea Sewell, a physician at the Beth Israel hospital, Boston, who gave the results, said: "Three of the patients felt like they did not have arthritis. It's really remarkable pain control."

A different form of interleukin-2 has been used in clinical trials as a cancer treatment, but has not been licensed either in America or Britain because of doubts about its safety and efficacy, but version was at the centre of a dispute at the Christie hospital, Manchester, last February when a consultant claimed a cancer patient was being denied it because of its high cost. The drug's manufacturers, Eurocept, eventually provided it free.

The new drug, developed by a biotechnology company, Seragen, of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, is also being tested in America as a treatment for some forms of blood cancer. Its use against rheumatoid arthritis is restricted to the Boston hospital, where larger numbers of patients are being recruited for a further study.

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and strikes again...

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Royal tribute to 'underground' heroes

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN VALENCY, FRANCE

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother paid tribute yesterday to the men and women of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who died on active service during the second world war.

In what was the heart of French Resistance country, not far from where the first SOE agent was parachuted into France and smuggled to safety, she laid a wreath to inaugurate a stark monument bearing the 104 names of those who did not return. Among the crowd round the memorial, eagerly awaiting her arrival despite the drizzle, were several dozen special visitors from the United Kingdom. Many of these former agents were frail, but bore their British and French decorations with pride.

The next of kin of those killed in action, under torture or in Nazi concentration camps, sat through the rain and cold waiting to pay their own tribute before the two tall columns that symbolised

the partnership of SOE and the Resistance. With them were the son and daughter of Colonel Maurice Buckmaster, commander of SOE's F Section, which recruited, trained and dispatched volunteers from half a dozen countries into areas under German control.

A guard of honour of elderly men, former Resistance fighters in the area, flanked the approach to the grassy mound. Each bore the treasured banner of his old comrades' association and determined to ignore the penetrating cold.

One of them, a gaunt, grey-haired man, kness buckling as he fought to stand upright, was supported by the arms of those beside him long enough to see the Queen Mother arrive in the Rolls-Royce of the British Ambassador to Paris, Sir Ewen Ferguson.

Finally he collapsed into the arms of several gentlemen, but his standard was

caught immediately by a comrade who held it proudly aloft as the Queen Mother passed by. When she paused to speak to him in her serviceable French the crowd burst into applause.

There was another murmur of appreciation when the former SOE agent Harry Rea delivered a brief but touching speech about the spirit that had united his comrades in the face of danger "in search of a common goal".

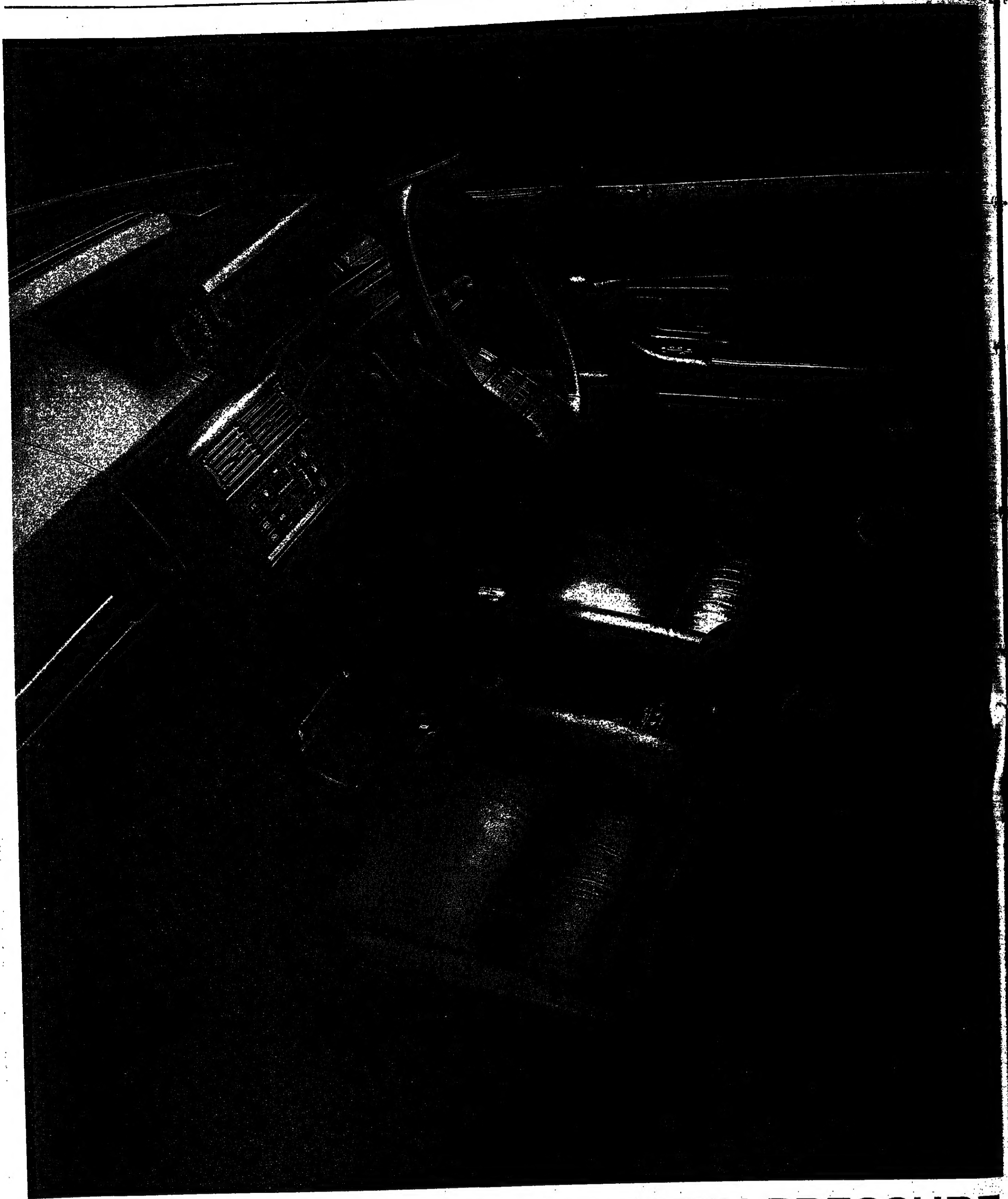
Many of the French spectators were far too young to remember the German occupation, but around Valency there was a special awareness of what was sacrificed. Ideally placed in the Indre region at the centre of France and surrounded by thick woods that provided perfect cover for guerrilla operations, the area nourished the Resistance to great and telling effect.

At one point 1,500 Maquis fighters in the northern Indre

region were operating under the command of SOE's "Pauline" - alias Pearl Witherington, who was back on her old stamping ground yesterday. Operating from the dense Gattou Forest near by, they launched repeated attacks on the Nazis. The inevitable reprisals hit Valency and its inhabitants so hard that after the war it received the honoured title of "martyred town".

The SOE memorial was conceived on the initiative of the indomitable Pauline, who became Mme Pearl Cornioley when she met after being parachuted into the region.

The memorial's striking design was taken from a model provided by another British woman, Elisabeth Harrington of the Royal Air Force Escaping Society, and the funds were raised by an association representing veterans of the struggle from all the countries that took part.



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THE TIMES
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Growing dole queue may be behind Tory poll losses

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT may have been a significant factor in the Conservative party's heavy losses in the local elections, according to an analysis by *The Times* of unemployment change in marginal seats.

Party strategists have virtually ruled out a June general election following the results of last week's elections, which saw a net 850 loss of Tory seats, the highest for any party in those elections.

Many of the Conservatives' most notable losses were in the South, where the recession has hit hardest and where unemployment has risen most quickly. Earlier this year, an analysis by *The Times* of each parliamentary constituency showed unemployment rising five times as fast in Conservative-held seats as in those held by the Labour party.

Government figures to be published next week will show a further increase in unemployment. Last month saw the highest-ever monthly increase on record as seasonally adjusted unemployment rose back above two million. Many economic forecasters expect unemployment to reach 2.75 million this year.

Close attention at the next general election will focus on the swing seats, the marginals where the voting difference between the parties is at its closest. Last week's local election results gave an indication of how those marginals might change.

A computer analysis by *The Times* of unemployment change in these marginal parliamentary constituencies — using Essex university's translation of local election data into general election results — suggests that rising unemployment might well have played a significant part in the results. The analysis shows that in virtually all the marginal seats in the South, which would be lost by the Conservatives on the basis of the local election results, the

rate of change in unemployment was significantly higher than the national average. In many cases in the North and Midlands the position was similar.

Taking the most recent available year-on-year figures, for the 12 months to February this year, unadjusted unemployment across Great Britain rose by 23.5 per cent, from 1,576,800 to 1,947,600.

Over the same period, the increase in unemployment in a number of key Conservative marginal constituencies that the local election results suggested would switch to Labour in a general election included: Basildon (71.4 per cent), Slough (67.6 per cent), Swindon (66.8 per cent), Corby (56.9 per cent), Ipswich (47.5 per cent), Peterborough (44.2 per cent) and Southampton Test (43.1 per cent). All these southern constituencies show increases in unemployment considerably higher than the national average.

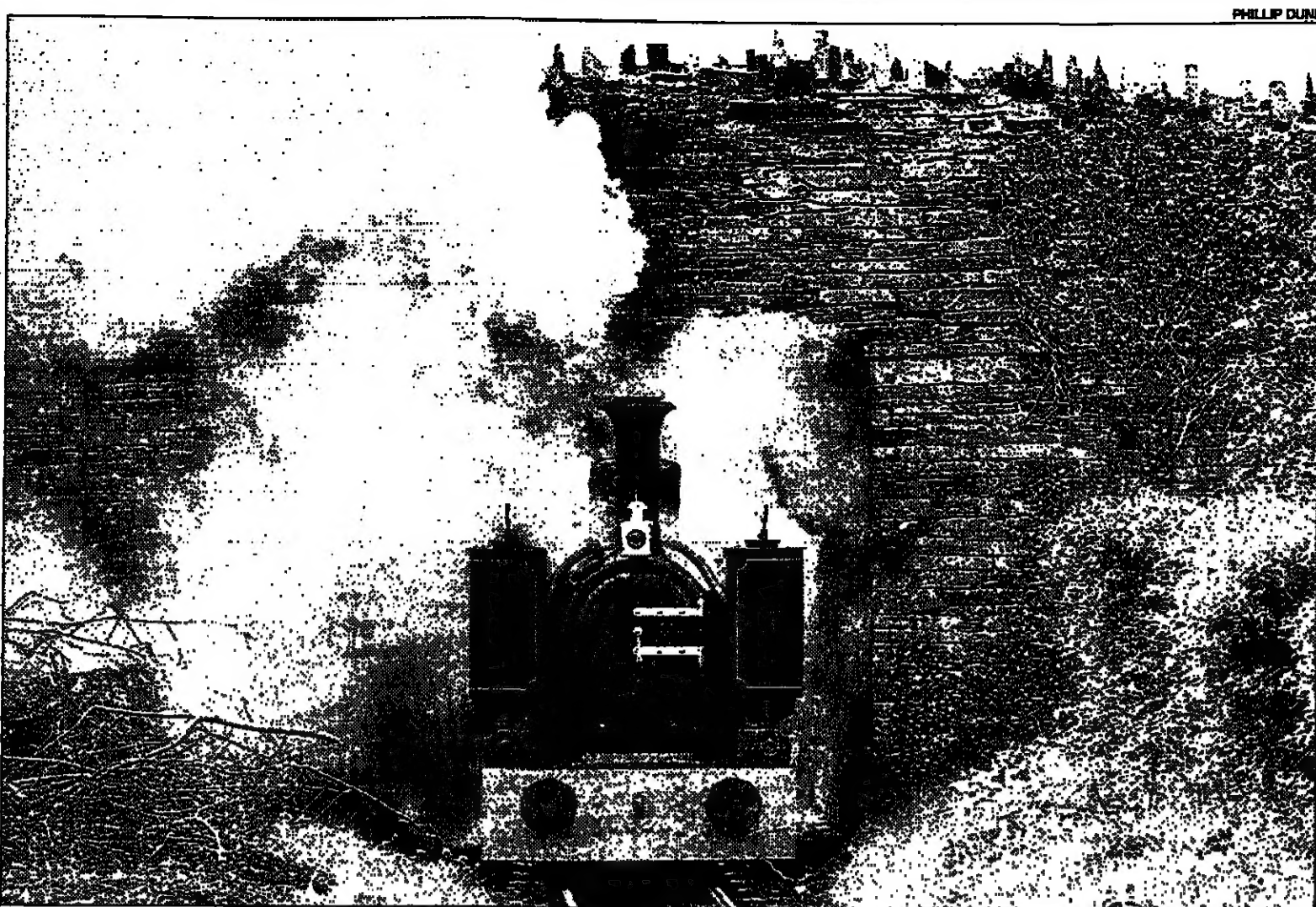
Constituencies which would switch to the Liberal Democrats included St Albans (88.6 per cent increase in unemployment), Cambridge (58.3 per cent), Southend (50.4 per cent) and Bath (46.5), the seat held by Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman. On average, unemployment in Conservative-held marginals that the local election results suggest would switch rose by half as much again as the national average rate.

Ministers publicly dismiss any connection between rising unemployment and electoral choice, though privately a number of MPs are worried by its political impact. Michael Howard, employment secretary, says that concentrating on rises in unemployment distorts the position since the number of jobs in areas such as Slough or Swindon is work much lower than in Labour seats.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 14
Reading article, page 15

Marginals	Section	% rise in forecast	% rise in jobs
Conservative/Labour	Lab	71.4	
Basildon	Con	4.8	
Birmingham North	Lab	12.2	
Sally Oak	Lib/D	16.1	
Yardley	Lab	14.4	
Bolton West	Lab	32.3	
Bristol East	Con	18.8	
Bury North	Lab	22.5	
Bury South	Lab	56.9	
Corby	Con	3.7	
Coventry SW	Con	16.6	
Croydon	Lab	23.4	
Dover	Con	28.9	
Dunelm West	Lab	19.3	
Elmet	Lab	17.5	
Ipswich	Con	28.8	
Katley	Lab	18.8	
Nottingham East	Lab	17.4	
South	Lab	14.2	
Peterborough	Lab	67.5	
Slough	Lab		23.5
Total for Britain			

Predicted outcome at next general election.
Percentage rise in unemployment over the past 12 months.



New arrival: the latest addition to the Talylyn Railway in Gwynedd emerging from a tunnel yesterday on its first day in service on the Victorian 2ft 3in gauge line. The locomotive has been called Tom Rolt after the man who inspired the line's rescue from closure 40 years ago

MPs want tiddlywink 5p piece withdrawn

By RAY CLANCY

THE tiny new 5p coin and its overweight elderly companion, the 50p piece, ought to be removed from circulation, MPs have decided. Both are dismissed as unwanted in a report of the House of Commons Treasury select committee to be published on May 20.

The report, a result of a two-month enquiry by the committee into the state of British currency, during which evidence was heard from Bank of England and Royal Mint officials, says that the coins were introduced without proper consultation.

The 5p coin came into circulation last June and was hailed by John Major, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, as "a fine coin, a beautiful coin, a return to a coin like the much-loved sixpence, and issued in response to public demand for lighter coins". The committee, however, takes the view that the coin is despised as tiddlywink money and looks like small change left over from an Italian holiday.

The seven-sided 50p piece has been the butt of complaints since it started to wear out trouser pockets 22 years ago. It is also unpopular with the clearing banks. Nobody seems to want it and the banks are at present holding in storage 50p pieces to the value of £25 million.

County opponents lose vital leader

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE threat of abolition hanging over county councils in England and Wales has been eased by the defeat of one of their strongest opponents in last week's local government elections.

The Conservative contender for the chairmanship of the Association of District Councils lost his seat in what should have been a safe Tory ward in Horsham, West Sussex, leaving the campaign to scrap the counties without a leader.

Brad Watson, a water treatment engineer, had been groomed to succeed Roy Thomson, the outspoken Tory solicitor from Bournemouth, who transformed the association from a haven for retired schoolmen to a dynamic force for change.

Under association rules Mr Thomson, who underwent open heart surgery at Easter, must step down in July without a clear successor of equal calibre in sight. His crusade against the counties has been credited with setting the agenda for the government's review of local government structure and influencing ministers to opt for a single tier of unitary authorities.

Leaders of the 330 district councils in England and Wales which belong to the association will meet this week to discuss the election result which has also seriously weakened the position of the ruling Tory group.

being outflanked and cut off by the newly confident Association of County Councils, headed by its increasingly vocal secretary, Robin Wendt. Although Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has insisted that local people will be consulted about the future shape of local government in their area the overall direction of the reforms will be dictated at

national level. The influence of the two associations, both under Tory control, will be decisive in shaping government policy.

The districts set out to wipe county councils off the map but Mr Heseltine is known to favour a compromise in which large towns and cities outside metropolitan areas would become unitary authorities similar to the old county boroughs.

District council leaders fear that without strong prompting from them the government will come down in favour of basing the new unitary authorities outside the towns on the existing counties, albeit with some of the boundaries redrawn.

Mr Heseltine is also keen that the new Local Government Commission which will oversee the restructuring of local government, should ensure that new authorities command local loyalty. The districts saw this as the death knell for Avon, Humberside and probably Cleveland. But they too are vulnerable. Many districts are artificial creations of the 1974 reforms.

The low turnout for local government elections demonstrates the low level of public interest in matters municipal. District council arguments about accountability may cut less ice than appeals to traditional county loyalty.

A senior district council leader said: "We are very exposed. We have no obvious successor for Roy Thomson but if we falter we will lose our chance to redraw the map of local government in England and Wales."

Mr Wendt, for the counties, said: "County councils already provide 85 per cent of local government services in their areas. They are the natural choice as the new unitary authorities. The districts have fought a noisy campaign but as the dust settles I think we will come to see that people's natural loyalties lie with the counties."



Thomson: no obvious successor in sight

Villages offered cash help for halls

Village halls are to be offered about £500,000 in grants over the next five years to help them to flourish as centres of social activity in rural areas.

The money is from the Carnegie UK Trust, set up in 1913 by Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-born philanthropist who made his fortune in America. Priority will be given to village halls in centres with populations of under 3,000 that have lost local services.

Projects to help young people, young mothers, pensioners and the unemployed will be supported. The money might also be used for interior refurbishment or new equipment, but will not cover building repairs. The trust is based at Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife.

Penhaligon case

The family of David Penhaligon, the Liberal MP for Truro who was killed in a crash with a van on an icy road in 1986, is to begin a High Court action for damages today against Tony Barry, the van driver, and Cornwall county council.

Car sale fails

A 1955 Maserati raced by Stirling Moss was withdrawn from sale yesterday when it failed to reach its reserve. The car was expected to fetch £1 million at the Sotheby's auction in Monaco but bidding failed to go above £700,000.

Man shot

Police were last night seeking two men who blasted a man in the legs with a shotgun as he sat in a Liverpool public house on Sunday.

Pupils sick

Two cases of dysentery have been confirmed at Thorn primary school in Gipton, Leeds, where there have been pupils with hepatitis A. Parents are worried about poor hygiene.

Killing charge

A mother aged 22 and her boy friend aged 25 were remanded in custody at Plymouth yesterday accused of manslaughter of the woman's three-year-old son.

Oil search

The oil company EBFUK is expecting approval this week for a 6,000-metre test drill for oil and gas at Amcotts, in Humberside, near the river Trent.

Labour council unable to shake off its culture of incompetence

NEXT week the Labour group in Lambeth, south London, will elect the council's leadership for the coming year. Whoever gets the job will have to cut another £8.3 million from the council's budgets. They will also inherit a climate of waste, inefficiency and sloth entrenched in the town hall's culture over the past 10 years.

Independent audits, carried out over the past five years, repeatedly emphasised the lack of control and management from politicians and chief officers. In 1986 Brian Skinner, the district auditor, said the council's financial difficulties were rooted in structural weaknesses in management. The council was then owed £50 million in rent and rates. Delay in setting the rate had increased arrears by 80 per cent. At the same time the council was operating a municipal laundry subsidised by ratepayers at £8 a wash.

In 1988 John Mwili, then director of management services, said the council had no proper planning beyond setting the budgets, and there was a "total absence of ensuring whether officers are meeting their targets". Chief officers resisted staff reductions as this threatened their empires, although in some cases it was "because they do not know how many staff they have in post". In 1989 the district auditor reported: "The council operates in an ethos of crisis management rather than one of forward planning."

Reg Race, former Labour MP, was brought in by the council later that year. His report in February 1990 said: "Throughout the council, there was a culture which tolerated incompetence and failure and which encouraged officers to believe they were not accountable for their actions."

Other Labour-controlled authorities have faced similar problems and have improved their performance. After abortive challenges to ratecapping in the mid-1980s by so-called hard left Labour groups, the more moderate new left Labour groups who took over

For ten years a left-wing council has suffered from financial difficulties, inefficiency and mismanagement. The trouble with Lambeth is assessed by Peter Victor

emphasised service and value-for-money for the electorate. Nalgo and Nupe, the town hall unions, were told that staff pay and conditions would be linked increasingly to performance.

In Lambeth council, however, the message was not driven home. Some council officers seem reluctant to use initiative, fearing political policy will change before they have completed their last set of instructions. "The safest thing is for them to do nothing," Dick Sorabji, a former council leader, said.

Staff operating in this climate are often less than assiduous. They arrive at work late, when not using sick leave — an average of 16 days a year. They refuse to answer colleagues' telephones and leave early. A no-cover policy brought in by Nalgo resulted in staff refusing to do colleagues' work when they were not in. There are now 89



Twelves: "Political push is needed"; Race: "Council tolerated failure"

children in the borough on the at-risk register without a social worker. One social service area office has been closed and two others have been amalgamated. Street sweeping and refuse collection are sources of constant complaint. More than 5,000 people are trying to take up the right to buy. Housing repairs have a huge backlog.

This, combined with the borough's recently capped poll tax level — formerly £590 but £402 now after capping and a £140 government reduction but still the highest in the country — is an electoral liability for Labour's national executive. The suspension of 13 Labour councillors — including Joan Twelves, the council leader, John Harrison, her deputy, and Julian Lewis, the chief whip — was motivated, in part at least, by the NEC's wish to reduce that liability.

Ms Twelves said: "Lambeth has a great deal of resistance to change. Without political push it does not happen." Outstanding debts were the result of high poverty and a highly mobile population, she said. "My priority is to get this council working properly, delivering services to the people who voted for us." Even the Tory opposition admits that she is trying to back her words with actions.

Why, then, with all the problems it should have been dealing with, did the Labour group bother with the kind of gesture politics for which it has become infamous? Mr Sorabji had two possible explanations. "Being a local politician in Lambeth is terrible," he said. "You don't have any money so all you can ever do is preside over making awful cuts. So, when they have a debate on the Gulf war, for a little while they can forget all that. They can have fun and go back to being working-class heroes or ultra-left heroes or whatever."

The other thing is that for the last 10 years the government has been kicking the council in the head. If you kick someone in the head for 10 years you should expect signs of brain damage."

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Go green or sink, Heseltine tells British industry

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, will tonight call for a "green renaissance" of British industry, insisting that environmental competitiveness is becoming essential for commercial survival.

He will warn British firms that the raising of environmental standards in many countries is creating huge new international markets, offering substantial profits if they are seized but threatening commercial failure if they are ignored.

His warning, to be given in the Shell lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, injects a brutal note of realism into the familiar admonitions to British industry to clean up its environmental act. Mr Heseltine is telling companies that in a world where rapidly toughening environmental regulation is changing the sort of goods that can be bought and sold, they will have to do it for the sake of the balance sheet, or go under.

Much of industry does not yet realise the situation, Mr Heseltine emphasised in an interview with *The Times*. The new markets, such as those in pollution control technology or environment-friendly goods, were "very important and very very big". He said: "I just don't think the scale of it has worked through the system. Of course, some companies realise it, but if you say to me, at large, has this concept of profits through environmental standards reached every boardroom in the land, the answer is, no it hasn't."

Companies had no choice but to adapt, he said. "Governments across the world, particularly the developed world, are raising environmental standards and the only issue is which companies have the products to meet these changes. The choice is not whether we respond to this, but when. And the choice is much more, whether British companies anticipate and take a lead in what is happening, or allow themselves to be undercut by foreign firms who self-



Heseltine
● The only issue is which companies have the products to meet these new standards ●

evidently are trading up their standards in these environmentally-sensitive fields. We are talking about extremely large sums of money. Big profits. The only choice is whether our competitors get it, or we get it."

Although Mr Heseltine is often viewed as an industrial interventionist, he does not want all the developing framework of environmental regulation for British industry to be imposed from on high by the government. New practices such as environmental auditing, he insists, will be better introduced by industry itself on a voluntary basis. Mandatory environmental auditing he sees as "way down the track", adding: "The better results will come in the early years from the voluntary co-operation of companies, and I think we will get it."

However, he feels that another development, eco-labelling, is now much closer.

and thinks — "fingers crossed" — that the European Community will agree on a system of green labels for environment-friendly goods, such as CFC-free aerosols, before the end of this year. Mr Heseltine inherited a commitment from his predecessor as environment secretary, Chris Patten, to bring in Britain's own eco-label if EC agreement was not secured by the end of 1991. He said: "I was beginning to feel we would have to go ahead with a British scheme of our own, but it looks as though we are going to be all right. Once we've got the details, we are ready to go."

From today, British industry's own views on issues such as environmental auditing and eco-labelling will be channelled through the new advisory committee on business and the environment, a group of more than 20 senior industrialists, under the chairmanship of John Collins, chairman of Shell UK, which will advise both Mr Heseltine and Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary. The committee's full membership will be announced shortly.

Their role, Mr Heseltine said, would be to advise the government on best practice in environmental regulation, and to guide their peers in the business world. "For example, there is inevitable going to be a conflict between the people who argue that they can go fast [in environmental self-improvement] and those who argue that they can't afford to make progress. We need to have very clear advice as to where the truth lies."

The committee will meet at a private dinner in London tonight, to be addressed by Mr Heseltine and Mr Lilley.



Lionised: children found the lions friendlier than usual at London Zoo yesterday. A safe visit to their den and the chance to chat or shake a paw was one of many fund-raising events in the zoo's special May Day appeal

Bishops battle to keep city grants

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

INNER city bishops are protesting against a Church Commissioners' decision to "reconsider" a £1 million grant to help drug addicts, alcoholics and the homeless.

The withdrawal of the annual grant to the Church Urban Fund by the Church Commissioners could affect the church's future ability to meet the needs of some of the poorest inner-city areas. The fund, which makes grants of £2.5 million a year for

community projects, may halve the help it gives to inner cities, a spokesman said.

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, has sent a strongly-worded letter to Sir Douglas Lovelock, First Church Estates Commissioner, on behalf of five bishops who say that the Church of England should practise what it preaches. Other bishops have also expressed concern.

The Church Commissioners have donated £2 million since Lord Runcie, former archbishop of Canterbury, set up the Church Urban Fund in 1988 after the publication of the controversial report, *Faith in the City*.

Martin Elengorn, the commissioners' general purposes secretary, said the grant was being reconsidered because of "a difficult financial situation". The Board of Governors will make a recommendation this month on whether to donate £1 million this year and the commissioners will decide at their annual meeting in June.

More than half of the Bishop of Birmingham's 200 parishes are designated as urban priority areas. He said the money was important symbolically. It was unfortunate that this should happen under a new archbishop. "This could look like a change of policy, just when those not too friendly to the church have been wanting a change from social concern to a preaching of the harmless gospel."

The fund, now within £2 million of its £18 million target, has channelled more than £7 million into 300 projects in 34 dioceses. Grant applications can be for five times the money available. Most of the money has been raised by dioceses. Churches in England contributed £4 million last year.

● Breaking the Chains of Poverty is launched today, a Christian campaign to increase awareness of growing poverty in Britain and challenge policies that exclude the poor.

Car workers seize chance of catching up on education

There is more to life than the car assembly line. Kevin Eason reports on academic fulfilment in Ford plants

THE university of life, endorsed by John Major as having contributed to his preparation for the nation's top job, has not been enough to satisfy hundreds of car workers thirsty for knowledge. Men like Dave Kirby left school without qualifications, destined for a life on a Ford assembly line. However, when Mr Kirby leaves the Halewood plant on Merseyside each day, his thoughts are not on beer and television but on essays he must write to complete an ambitious degree course.

The Halewood foreman is taking part in an ambitious educational project run by Ford. Almost half of its British workforce, more than 20,000 workers, have joined the company's Employee Development and Assistance Programme, a £2 million-a-year scheme financing the study of a wide variety of subjects.

Managers and unions launched the scheme nearly two years ago and have been astounded by the response, which has encouraged Ford to set up 500 courses, many scheduled between shifts at its 22 British plants. Languages and computer studies are the two most popular courses, and many workers study for qualifications. The biggest demand came from Halewood, where managers have set up a degree course with the help of Liverpool Institute of Higher Education.

Mr Kirby, aged 48, says he left school "under a cloud", and followed friends into Ford. The work has been secure and well paid, but not enough to occupy a lively mind. Mr Kirby studied at night school for an English language GCSE and surprised himself by getting an A grade. That spurred him to take a

degree course with the help of his employers.

"The assembly line can be mind-numbing," Mr Kirby said. "I never had the chance to study and I always felt I had missed out." After 23 years at Halewood, Mr Kirby will complete his career with Ford with early retirement, but he believes the degree will give him the chance of a second career, perhaps in social work. Like John Major, Mr Kirby sees study later in life as a personal goal. "I want the self-achievement," he said.

Anthony Armstrong, who assembles gear boxes, expects a degree to allow him a career in social work. "In a sense I am educating myself to do something new," Mr Armstrong, aged 40, said. "I was scared at first, because it is so difficult studying between shifts. I try to do some reading or make notes during lunch-time or in breaks."

When assembly-line men go to classes, they sit next to white-collar workers, often their bosses, who are used to writing reports and solving complex problems. Glyn Morgan, an employee-relations manager in charge of 1,500 workers, rejected a place at the London School of Economics after leaving school to pursue a 23-year career with Ford. He joined the degree course because the feeling that he achieved his professional ambition at the expense of a fuller education had never left him.

Under Ford's scheme, workers can have course costs met by a management that understands that it may be educating them for using new-found knowledge elsewhere. Bill Horrocks, senior education adviser at Halewood, said: "The old image of the worker just content to pick up the pay packet is long gone."

Maguire Seven appeal hearing begins

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal hearing into the conviction of Anne Maguire and six relatives 15 years ago for allegedly running an IRA bomb factory in northwest London begins today at the High Court.

The conviction of the seven was effectively discarded last year after Sir John May's enquiry into the Guildford Four and the Maguire case. Last month, counsel for Sir Allan Green, QC, director of public prosecutions, argued that the Maguire family's complaints had been aired at the enquiry, but the appeal judges rejected that argument, accepting that unless the seven had their names cleared in court the public would regard them with suspicion.

The Maguire Seven were arrested after Mrs Maguire was implicated by the confessions of two of the Guildford Four, Gerard Conlon and Paul Hill. The seven were jailed in March 1976 and an appeal was turned down in 1977. Six of them are free but the seventh, Giuseppe Conlon, Gerard's father, died in prison during his 12-year sentence.

Anne Maguire, now aged 54, and her husband Patrick, aged 57, were each jailed for 14 years. Patrick Maguire, their son, aged 29, received four years and another son, Vincent, aged 32, received five years. Mrs Maguire's brother, Sean Smyth, aged 52, was jailed for 12 years and Patrick O'Neill, a family friend, aged 49, for eight years.

The new appeal was announced after Sir John, a former appeal judge, heard new scientific evidence that the seven could have been innocently contaminated with nitro-glycerine. He said in his report that evidence at the trial was misheard and misunderstood by the judge, now Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls. Sir John was critical of lawyers and scientists in the case and argued that some evidence was inadmissible.



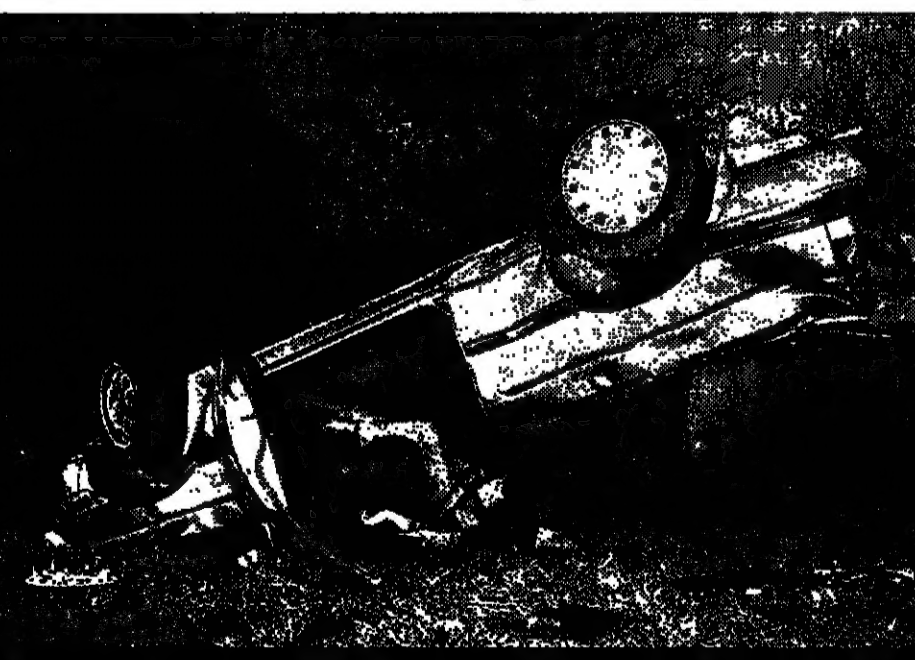
Maguire: sentenced to 14 years in prison

Prescott's rail pledge

JOHN Prescott, Labour spokesman on transport, has pledged to electrify the Midlands main line if the party wins the next election. An electrified Midlands line was the key to unlocking the European market for Derbyshire industries, he said.

Speaking at a rally to mark the 157th anniversary of a strike by workers at Derby's Silk Mill, Mr Prescott said: "There are a lot of missing links in the country's transport network — this is one, and it needs completing."

"Petrol was leaking everywhere."



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An inspector calls, and calls, and calls

By PETER DAVENPORT

ANYONE making a first visit to the Sun Inn at Bilsdale, North Yorkshire, might be forgiven for thinking that they had taken a wrong turning and steered their vehicle into a farmyard instead of a pub car park. Hens, cows and sheep wander around and there is a drone from beehives nearby.

In fact the inn, owned by William Ainsley and his wife Madge, is also a farmhouse. Mr Ainsley estimates that 25 different inspectors call on them, ranging from those from the agriculture ministry who check his beehives, sheep, cows and the quality of their milk, to licensing magistrates, the police, fire service and trading standards and hygiene officials from the North Yorkshire county council.

"I must admit I get a bit fed up with them all sometimes," Mr Ainsley said. "There is not a month goes by without at least one inspector calling, and sometimes it's more. It wouldn't be so bad if they would spend something while they were here. Since we went into Europe, the regulations have



Inspectors' delight: William and Madge Ainsley tend livestock outside their inn

got worse, with the latest law being that we aren't allowed to carry lambs by their front legs even though it's the way it's been done for 1,000 years around here. It's daft. It's the only way to carry a lamb so that the ewe can see it and follow where you want it to go."

There has been an inn on the site, on the road between Helmsley and Stokesley, since the 15th century. Mr

Ainsley's family have been landlords since 1823. The original thatched pub, then owned by the Faversham estate, was closed in 1914 and the present stone building was put up just across the courtyard.

In 1944, Mr Ainsley's father bought the pub and farm, of which he had been tenant, and it was handed on to his son 20 years ago. Spout House Farm, a 96-acre hold-

ing with cows and sheep, is largely run by the Ainsley's son William. They also make honey.

The original inn has since been leased to North Yorkshire council by Mr Ainsley and is preserved as a museum, with its fixtures and fittings as they were when it closed. The Ainsley's nearest neighbours are in the hamlet of Fingdale Beck seven miles away.

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Exiles dream of comeback as royal stock rises in east Europe



Princess Maria-Luise: an emotional return to Sofia

THE political future of absent monarchs and the tentative claims of eastern Europe's displaced aristocrats are being given a welcome boost this week by the visit to Czechoslovakia of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The kings-in-waiting—Simeon of Bulgaria, Michael of Romania, even Leka of Albania—will be closely watching the British royal foray into post-communist Europe.

The region is not entirely virgin territory for the royal family. Princess Margaret was even in Hungary during the rule of Janos Kadar, the veteran communist. Prince Edward popped up in Warsaw the other day with a theatre troupe, and the Duke of Edinburgh has distant relatives scattered throughout central Europe. But the visit of the Prince and Princess is, as the

The monarchist option is being given serious consideration in the search by central and eastern Europe for a new political identity, Roger Boyes reports

rather awed Czechoslovak foreign ministry admitted, "very special and serious".

The trip makes the post-communist governments confront the issue of royalty, the monarchist option that was shrugged off after the 1989 democratic revolutions. In Czechoslovakia, admittedly, the restoration of Habsburg rule seems a poor bet.

The heir to the old empire, Archduke Otto von Habsburg, is content to stay in the European Parliament. He has turned down an offer to stand for the presi-

dency of Hungary. Even so, the Habsburg empire is remembered—perhaps not quite accurately—as a model of multinational tolerance.

Communist rule suppressed ethnic animosities, the post-communist governments are floundering under them, yet the Habsburgs managed to cope with dozens of squabbling minorities. In a recent interview, Dr Habsburg suggested that Czechoslovakia should evolve into a proper confederation, although Slovakia should provide guarantees for its Hungarian minority, and Yugo-

slavia become a confederation of independent states. There are several lobbies in central and eastern Europe for the restoration of monarchy.

In Bulgaria, the opposition Union of Democratic Forces is splitting into a centre-left faction and a right-wing grouping in which the monarchists have an increasingly powerful say. Last weekend thousands of Bulgarians, chanting "bring back Tsar Simeon", greeted the return of Princess Maria-Luise. She is the sister of the exiled Bulgarian king, who is planning his return from Spain. In Romania, the Peasant party is the most vociferous supporter of a restoration.

Monarchist parties and groups are also promoting Grand Duke Vladimir Romanov, the Russian heir, Prince Leka of Albania, and Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia,

but none of these exiled monarchs fits comfortably into the current political formulas; their hope is that the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales will be the first of many, and that a market, to use a crude bourgeois term, will be created.

The fortunes of the aristocratic families of eastern Europe—the prewar landowners and courtiers—do not hang on such slender threads. The drive to privatise the broken economies of the region has raised the question of who owns what. Often, the answer is that a noble family has legal title to great swathes of land. Western hotel chains are building on land bought from the state, but the state frequently has no right to sell.

Count Jan Zamoyski, who leads the Polish Landowners' Association into battle with the

commoners running the Warsaw government, is raising the substantive question of how legitimate are the nationalisation, and if these laws are declared null and void, asking how sound is any part of the postwar legislation.

The younger aristocrats are also returning to the political stage. Count Zamoyski's son, Marcin, has become mayor of Zamosc, the city created by the royal chancellor, Jan Zamoyski, more than 400 years ago. Princess Anna Radzivil is deputy education minister. Prince Marcey Radzivil is helping in the privatisation ministry, and Prince Mikolaj Radzivil—once active in Solidarity when it was underground—is helping to set up an Aids centre.

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Gorbachev woos West to counter isolation

From MARY DELEVSKY in MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Mitterrand had talks in Moscow yesterday, apparently as part of President Gorbachev's attempt to improve his image in the West and reduce the growing international isolation of the Soviet Union.

On Sunday, Mr Gorbachev, according to Tass, told Rupert Murdoch, chief executive of The News Corporation, during a meeting in the Kremlin that he was concerned about "emerging signs that the United States is redefining its attitude to the Soviet Union".

The news agency said he added that "this is reflected not only in statements, but also in certain economic and political steps. One needs to think constantly about the special value of relations between two such states, and refrain from putting them to unnecessary tests." Mr Gorbachev said there was a danger that the world would be plunged again into a "cold or semi-cold war".

The president also said that the Soviet press was being "choked with the abundance of oxygen it has suddenly received".

Vitali Churkin, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, yesterday singled out the slow pace of economic relations with America and "certain

statements, maybe not deliberate" which "fanned separatist movements", as sources of Soviet dissatisfaction.

Washington handled both issues delicately at the summit last June, but it has been more forthright since the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze as foreign minister, the killings in the Baltic republics in January, and the emergence of signs that the Soviet economy is disintegrating.

President Gorbachev was expected to discuss these problems and East-West disarmament with Mitterrand.

Washington recently hinted that the superpower summit, which is planned for the first half of the year, was dependent on the resolution of arms issues. The lack of any diplomatic breakthrough during Mr Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo last month means that the Kremlin can no longer afford to maintain the nonchalant stance it adopted with Washington when success in Japan seemed more likely.

President Gorbachev told Mr Murdoch, according to Tass, that relations with America formed the "cornerstone" of Soviet foreign policy. This seems to suggest that the Kremlin is reconsidering its latest attempt, identified partly with Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the foreign minister, to reduce the dominance of superpower relations in Soviet diplomacy.

A discrepancy in official accounts of the meeting between the president and Mr Murdoch suggested, however, that the orientation of Soviet foreign policy is a highly sensitive issue. The two sentences in which the Soviet leader expressed his concern about a possible "readjustment" of the American attitude were omitted from the report in *Pravda*. The inference must be that the authorities did not want readers to know that one of Mr Gorbachev's few enduring successes, the improvement in superpower relations, might be in jeopardy.

Mitterrand might discuss Soviet Middle East policy and a possible peace deal in Cambodia. Mr Bessmertnykh sets off on a tour of the Middle East tomorrow.

Accords boost Yeltsin

By BRUCE CLARK

TWO agreements reinforcing the power of Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation government were signed in Moscow yesterday. One opens the way for the formation of a Russian KGB and the other transfers control of Russia's coal mines from central to republican hands, which should end a bitter miners' strike.

Mr Yeltsin, addressing the Russian parliament, conditionally approved President Gorbachev's acceptance of the inter-republican agreement. "The president, faced with the threat of a political impasse, made the right choice... If [his] intentions are truly serious, and if this is not just another attempt at political trickery, then the first serious move has been made towards solving the country's crisis."

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin and the Soviet KGB chief, Vladimir Kryuchkov, signed the agreement setting out the functions of a Russian KGB. Mr Kryuchkov, however, played down the importance of the republic's security service.

He said the most important thing was that the principle of the inseparability of state security functions at union and republic level should not be violated. "In the first instance, the fundamental role in carrying out assignments must still be undertaken by the union KGB," he added.

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Street violence: youths looting a shop in Washington during a riot which erupted in the racially mixed Mount Pleasant neighbourhood after a police officer shot a Hispanic man. Police said that he had pulled out a knife while being arrested. The shooting set off five hours of stone and bottle-throwing on Sunday night that drew hundreds on to the streets and resulted in ten police injuries and eight arrests. The suspect, Daniel Enrique Gomez, aged 30, was reported to be in

critical condition yesterday after surgery for a gunshot wound in the chest. Police said Mr Gomez became disorderly during the arrest of two other men on disorderly conduct charges. With one wrist handcuffed, he broke loose from the grasp of a

woman police officer and pulled a knife. The officer ordered him to drop it, but he lunged towards her and she shot him once in the chest. The disturbance was the biggest in the capital since Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968.

Picassos stolen in Prague raid

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

FOUR paintings by Picasso have been stolen in a raid on the Czechoslovak national museum in Prague and the precise nature of the shopping list suggests that the paintings were stolen to order.

The thieves forced their way in to the art gallery at Sternberg palace, Prague, passed several inadequate alarm systems, took the paintings and, unlike the robbers at the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam last month, made a successful escape. A night watchman called police after an alarm was finally activated, but by the time they arrived it was too late, the state news agency CTK reported.

Lubomir Slavicek, the gallery's director, said: "It was a terrible awakening, especially because I had just come back from Paris where I was discussing the gallery's future." The museum is in a series of self-contained historic buildings. The baroque-style Sternberg palace houses old masters and 19th and 20th century paintings on the ground floor. The Picasso

paintings—*Absinthe* and *Playing Card*, *Mandolin* and *Glass of Pernod*, *Table with Goblet* and *Port of Tadaques*—all date from between 1910 and 1922, during the Spanish-born artist's Cubist period.

Although regarded as the most influential aesthetic movement of the 20th century (establishing the idea that an art work exists as an object in its own right, and not just as a reflection of reality), the Cubist period, due to its visual austerity, has not achieved the same record prices as Picasso's sexier periods such as the *Blue* and the *Fauve*.

The record for a Picasso is the \$33 million paid in Paris for his *Les Femmes d'Alger* in 1987. Another *Acrobate* at *Jeune Arlequin* sold for \$20.9 million. Both were Blue period paintings. Asked how many Picassos were still left in the gallery, Mr Slavicek replied: "I'm confused at present, but it is 10 to 15."

After the raid on the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam on April 14, the thieves abandoned the paintings.

Killing of soldier prompts Croatian appeal for calm

From DESSA TREVISAN AND TIM JUDAH in BELGRADE

THE Yugoslav federal presidency was convened in emergency session yesterday after a soldier was killed and another wounded at a demonstration by 30,000 people in the Dalmatian coastal town of Split.

The meeting was held after Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian leader, appealed for calm, saying that the protest in front of Yugoslavia's main naval base had had a tragic result and the country should "prevent even greater consequences".

The federal presidency was originally scheduled to meet on Friday but now the spectre has appeared of a state of emergency being declared. The army requested that such action be taken two months ago, but the idea failed to win acceptance from the majority of republics.

Yesterday Yugoslav television showed the anti-army protesters in Split attacking armoured personnel carriers guarding the naval base, and there were reports that two



bases elsewhere in Croatia had been blockaded. It is unclear what set off yesterday's rioting, but Dr Tudjman had answered a question about the army allegedly "harbouring Serb terrorists" by saying: "And why didn't you go to demonstrate in front of the headquarters of the Split military naval region, so that the world sees that this is not just the struggle of the political leadership but of the whole people?"

The shooting yesterday of a Macedonian conscript, aged 19, is especially significant because it is the first time a soldier has been killed. The army warned of dire consequences if that happened. It was a tense weekend on the coast of Croatia. Nine Serbian-owned summer houses were attacked with explosives, as was the main railway line from the interior of the country, which had just opened after being halted for a month by explosions and threats.

The line passes through Krajina, the rebel Serb region of Croatia, which has unilaterally declared its secession and union with Serbia.

Dr Tudjman, under great pressure from Croatian extremists, has been making increasingly contradictory statements. Inaugurating Croatia Airlines, he called on the world to recognise "independent Croatia", but later declared that there was much misunderstanding about why Croatia did not immediately follow Slovenia and declare independence. Dr Tudjman said that, while Slovenia and Belgrade had come to some sort of de facto agreement, "we have about 600,000 Serbs in Croatia and the Yugoslav army".

Attack on US condom aid

London—America sending billions of condoms to contraceptive pills to the wrong countries because it is more concerned with winning political friends than solving the world's rapidly expanding population, according to a report published yesterday (Thomson Prentice Wise).

The Population Crisis Committee, a privately funded research group which based in Washington, blames Ronald Reagan, the former president, for overlooking the importance of population growth, and says that President Bush has given little priority to international family planning programmes.

Seoul protest

Seoul—Anti-government protests broke out in South Korea after a detained labour activist jumped to his death from a hospital window after shouting protests at the police killing of a student. More than 1,000 students took over a road in eastern Seoul before being dispersed by riot police firing tear gas. (Reuters)

Mafia attack

Rome—Three Mafia hit men disguised as police officers burst into a house in Taurianova, southern Italy, at the weekend and opened fire on relatives mourning Giuseppe Grimaldi, aged 34, who headed in a Mafia murder last Friday, police said. The dead man's daughter, aged 14, was critically hurt. (AFP)

Romanian party

Bucharest—Leaders of the opposition Civic Alliance movement in Romania will launch a new political party next month to compete with the ruling National Salvation Front, the independent AP Press news agency said. They said their action was motivated by the absence of a "real political alternative". (Reuters)

Cost of loving

Canberra—The Australian taxman has struck a deal with brothel owners to reduce the tax rate for prostitutes. While other Australian businesses face a sliding tax scale, of between 20 and 47 per cent on employees' wages, owners of brothels have been offered a 20 per cent flat rate. (Reuters)

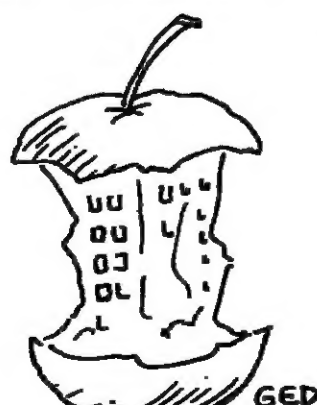
Spectre of bankruptcy ushers in the lean years

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

W eekend in New York looked too perfect for the mayor to be branding words such as "doomsday" and "dire". A brilliant spring sun shone down on the seasonal tourists once again thronging Fifth Avenue and the Park. The doormen went back to work at their apartment buildings after a painful strike. At Carnegie Hall they were marking the centennial of the Empire State Building, still by far the perfect skyscraper, was lit for its sixtieth anniversary.

But it was crunch time for New York's fiscal crisis, the moment of reckoning for the feast of 1980s vanities. Financial disaster is at the door for the first time since New York narrowly escaped collapse in the mid-1970s. So on Saturday Mayor David Dinkins unveiled a plan for avoiding bankruptcy so devastating that one museum director called it a "cultural Chernobyl".

Barring a sudden and unaccounted flush of self-sacrifice among the municipal unions who helped elect him, Mr Dinkins says he will be forced in July to switch off a quarter of the street lights and close



the Central Park Zoo as well as all 32 of the swimming pools, drug treatment centres and child health programmes and a substantial number of museums, libraries and homeless shelters.

The loss of thousands of jobs, including those of 6,000 teachers, will help bridge the \$3.4 billion (£2 billion) deficit predicted for the year starting in July. If the state does not step in with money and the unions agree to compromise, "each and every New Yorker will

be forced to suffer and sacrifice," Mr Dinkins said. The police are the only department not facing cuts, but their spokesmen are appalled at the idea of switching off lights and cutting other services at a time when the murder and robbery rate is breaking records.

Many blame the indecisive Mr Dinkins for failing to grasp the magnitude of New York's problems earlier. But most critics recognise that the city is facing the bill for the wild spending spree it indulged in during the seven fat years from 1983 to 1990 under Mayor Edward Koch, who is sniping gleefully at Mr Dinkins from a newspaper column.

The trouble is that New Yorkers have grown used to constant crisis and many believe Mr Dinkins is just indulging in the routine "hype" that they tune out of their daily existence. But it may be different this time, if only because the middle classes are hurting so badly from the recession, far more severe than in the American mainland across the Hudson river. Many mortgage-payers were not so much listening to Mr Dinkins over the weekend as seeking out the

impact of another dire development. Because the housing market has collapsed, desperate sellers have agreed to put up their Manhattan flats for public auction this month, with no minimum prices.

Big news on the sex front this month comes not from *Truth or Dare*, the latest attempt by Madonna to frighten the already jaded bourgeoisie with pornographic behaviour. For hair-raising shock value, God-fearing citizens are turning to a 200-page report by a committee of the Presbyterian Church.

The shades of Calvin and Knox must be pale with disbelief over this recipe for reversing the traditional attitude to sexuality which will be put to the General Assembly next month. Instead of chastity before marriage and fidelity within, the task force of ministers proposes reversing most of the old sexual "Thou Shalt Not" and condoning sex between the unmarried, including gay men, lesbians and old-age pensioners.

Sex, the report says, should be considered acceptable between

"responsible teenagers"—a phrase many parents would consider a contradiction. Endorsing fornication and homosexuality, the report, called *Keeping Body and Soul Together*, argues that it is time for Christians to accept that sexual gratification is a human need that should not be burdened by a sense of sin. "The fundamental debate within the church... should not be focused in a limited way on rules of who sleeps with whom," it says. The report, which has turned into a best-seller among religious documents, is laced with the "politically correct" thinking now rampant in US intellectual life. The equality of women and homosexuals and other "marginalised" groups is more important than setting rules for sex, it says.

Critics, who are confident that the proposals will be defeated, say the report violates just about every tenet of faith. One of the authors, Rev Elizabeth Johnson, one of the authors, said: "We've had some people behaving in extraordinarily unchristian ways, wishing people to hell... But I suspect the Reformation was a pretty fiery time, too, and look what it accomplished."

سكنا من الامم

Bangladesh army tries to sort out aid muddle

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

BANGLADESH'S army began trying to bring order to the government's disastrously ineffective relief effort along the cyclone-devastated southeast coast yesterday. At the same time questions were being asked about the country's failure to anticipate the catastrophe.

Red Cross officials have said the final death toll in last Tuesday's storm might reach 200,000, and have given a warning that widespread starvation is imminent unless there is an immediate big improvement in relief efforts.

There is still a serious lack of transport from the north to the southern city of Chittagong. Severe storms continued to batter the coast last night, disrupting the meagre relief operation. Large numbers of offshore islands, where there

is almost certainly no food and probably only rainwater to drink, have yet to be reached by relief workers.

Many islands, some barely two feet above mean sea level, are still knee-deep in water. Although it is near-suicidal to live on them, desperate overcrowding on the mainland has driven peasants into trying to scratch a living along one of the world's most hostile coasts. The entire southern coast is a shifting landscape in which islands come and go with seasonal storms.

Despite a severe cyclone in 1970, which killed perhaps 500,000 people, and another in 1988, Bangladesh has never instituted even the basic elements of a disaster-preparedness programme. It has not even stockpiled emergency supplies of basic medicines and food.

Scramble to stop Soweto 'army'

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S political leaders are scrambling to convene urgent peace talks after a senior official of the Inkatha Freedom party threatened to deploy 100,000 armed men in Soweto to confront African National Congress supporters.

Musa Myeni, an Inkatha central committee member, said on Sunday that the fighters would be called up unless the ANC halted political violence in black townships nationally within a week. He said 150,000 more men were standing by to reinforce Johannesburg and its suburbs. "So far we have not directed our forces to unleash their power, but we will do so in the interest of peace. We want to watch if the ANC and the Communist party continue with the present violence. We are giving them seven days from today."

Mr Myeni's ultimatum, three weeks after the ANC confirmed plans to create armed defence units in the townships, appeared to bring the conflict to the brink of full-scale civil war. An ANC spokesman said the Inkatha threat was impractical and dangerous. "We hope it is nothing more than Myeni's passion," he said.

The lack of co-ordination among donor countries has also been a serious problem. "The Bangladeshi government has told us exactly how much and what type of medicine they need," a foreign aid official said. "But we have got to sort out who is what. At the moment we don't know what each of us is doing."

The lack of cyclone shelters is a central issue. The Red Cross/Red Crescent operates 52 shelters along the southern coast, and other relief agencies have built six more. Ali Hassan Quorshi, of the country's Red Cross/Red Crescent, estimated that 3,500 were needed to cover the entire coastal area.



Conquering hero: General Norman Schwarzkopf, with his wife Brenda, son Christian, and daughter Cindy, giving an exuberant salute as Mickey Mouse and nearly 30,000 people in the stadium at Tampa, Florida, welcome the commander of

the victorious allied forces in the Gulf war back to his home town. General Schwarzkopf and his family drove in a burgundy Cadillac from his home at MacDill Air Force Base to the stadium (Reuter reports). With a thumbs-up signal to the

cheering crowd, he said: "Thanks for the mother of all homecomings." The ceremony featured military drills, an air-force fly-past, red, white and blue fireworks, little flags on parachutes, and a patriotic song-and-dance number by a children's

choir. President Bush, recovering after developing an irregular heart-beat while jogging at the weekend, sent his warm wishes in a videotaped message. The ceremonies were interrupted for a moment of prayer for the president.

Seven ambitious men stalk Quayle

President Bush's sudden illness has thrown the political future of his stumbling vice-president into sharp relief. Peter Stothard, US Editor, reports from Washington

ON ALMOST any day in the White House eight men can be counted who would like to be president in 1996. Dan Quayle, the vice-president, is just one of them.

President Bush had barely been admitted to hospital on Saturday before the political pundits in Washington began to focus attention on Mr Quayle's unfitness to succeed him. The rumbling did not cease when Mr Bush returned home yesterday, nor is it soon likely to, since most of the powerful people in the capital have an interest in keeping the story alive.

For Democrats the vice-president is fair game. His obvious inexperience, verbal stumbles and strong conservative views make him an attractive target, especially on days when an attack on Mr Bush has seemed like an unpatriotic assault on a successful war leader.

Mr Quayle is, however, equally tempting prey for his Republican rivals, even if their shots have to be fired in secret. The aim of those on his own side is to wound but not to kill.

With his adversaries including some of the most skillful political assassins in Washington, the vice-president has certainly been wounded over the past two

days, but he is not yet wholly out of the race.

The roll-call of those Republicans who want the option of supplanting a weak Mr Quayle as presidential candidate in four years' time begins with James Baker, the Secretary of State, and runs through the attorney-general, Richard Thornburgh, the housing secretary, Jack Kemp (with whom the vice-president played "I'm fit" tennis on Sunday), Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the transport secretary, Samuel Skinner, the

education secretary, Lamar Alexander, and even the White House chief of staff, John Sununu.

Much of the political wind which storms around the Oval Office can be traced to the personal ambitions of these men. When President Bush is at his desk, his obsession with the loyalty of his subordinates prevents the tensions becoming too strained, at least publicly.

But, after his heart trouble, even Mr Bush has an interest in keeping the Quayle question alive for a little longer. He has to

decide if his ailing fibrillation has made it even slightly less likely that he will himself run in 1996. And he has to ask, too, if the fear of a Quayle succession is sufficiently genuine, deep and widespread to hamper, even slightly, his own chances of re-election.

Mr Baker is among those who have never made much secret of his feelings about the Quayle appointment. The vice-president himself joked at a recent dinner: "Secretary Baker took me under his wing in the elec-

tion campaign — and kept me there".

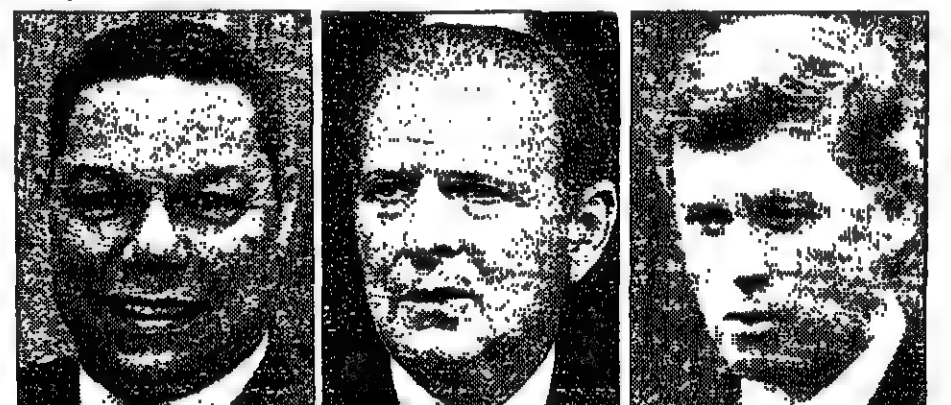
The argument for replacing Mr Quayle was always that he would do more serious harm to the Republicans in 1992 than in 1988. Three years ago it could be argued that he might grow into the job and that, if he did not, he could be put out to pasture. In 1992 the electorate would see that it was being asked to choose the party's front-runner for 1996.

The vice-president has consistently failed to improve his ratings in the public opinion polls and has not won appreciation beyond those who have to deal with him day-to-day.

Even close aides have suggested recently that it was not certain he would be allowed to run again.

Curiously, however, it seemed last week that all these rumours would prove unfounded. Mr Sununu, whose word is still not to be ignored, went so far as to say that Mr Quayle would definitely be the president's running mate.

So far the president's ailing fibrillation does not appear to have changed those calculations. But the issue is unlikely to be closed now or in the near future.



Men who would be king: Colin Powell, James Baker and Dan Quayle

Leading article, page 15

Danger of coup fades in Moscow

Washington — Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, said yesterday that he believed the imminent threat of dictatorship, a military coup or civil war in the Soviet Union had grown slightly less since the winter (Martin Fletcher writes).

But the dangers were still great and without Western help the economic regeneration necessary to stave them off was impossible.

On his first trip outside the Soviet Union since his unexpected resignation last December, Mr Shevardnadze said that America's response to President Gorbachev's appeal for \$1.5 billion (£880 million) in agricultural credits to stave off acute food shortages was critical.

President Bush has indicated that the United States will reject the appeal, but Mr Shevardnadze said America's answer would to a large extent determine the fate of reform and democracy in the Soviet Union. American support was important psychologically, politically and practically, and there was very little time, he said, in a speech delivered at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Desert riches

Cairo — Egypt has begun mining uranium ore for the first time, the national news agency MENA reported. It quoted a government geologist as saying that studies had uncovered large ore reserves at Umm Ars in the eastern desert near Aswan. Egypt has been exploring for uranium for around a decade. (Reuter)

Cocaine haul

La Coruña — Civil guards found more than a tonne of cocaine in 40 separate packets floating in the sea off the coast of northwest Spain, local officials said. The drugs were discovered when villagers and fishermen spotted bundles, some tied to small buoys, at different sites along the coast. (Reuter)

Spy allegation

Algiers — Group Captain William Cross, the British military attaché in Algeria, was expelled for spying last month after being arrested with a camera near a nuclear research centre, the newspaper *Quotidien d'Algerie* said. Britain has denied he was a spy. Algeria denies it is developing nuclear arms. (Reuter)

Books purge

Wellington — New Zealand customs will tighten up on imported literature after reports that David Gray read American books on how to kill and maim before shooting dead 13 neighbours last year. "Only disturbed and dangerous people would be interested in reading that kind of material," a spokesman said. (Reuter)

Kurdish leaders return to Baghdad to seek agreement on autonomy

FROM ADAM KELLER IN BAGHDAD

A DELEGATION of Kurdish leaders reassembled in Baghdad yesterday for talks with the Iraqi government. The negotiations might lead to an autonomy pact for the ethnic minority in northern Iraq, although it is unlikely to include control of the region's oil resources.

The government has also lifted censorship restrictions on Western reporters working in Iraq, in principle giving them the freedom to report openly on the country. Officials said reporters would no longer have to be accompanied by information ministry officials while in Baghdad, although they would still be needed during trips outside the Iraqi capital.

The government had pre-

viously censored any material that criticised its policies, but Baghdad can still deny extensions to visas to journalists who report in a style inimical to President Saddam Hussein's regime.

Masoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish Democratic party, was expected to lead the Kurdish delegates at the new talks. The first round concluded ten days ago, with the Kurdish side saying an agreement had been reached on the basis of a 1970 self-rule package.

The first delegation was led by Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. After he left government hands, however, the veteran guerrilla chief declared real obstacles remained to any

agreement. Negotiations were suspended to allow for Saddam's official birthday celebrations, but Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, said yesterday that talks would start this week.

He said Baghdad had no intention of yielding control of oil resources around the city of Kirkuk. Dr Abdul al-Anbari, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, had reported that the concession was granted to the Kurds during the first round of negotiations.

Mr Aziz said oil extraction would remain in the hands of the central government. This was one of the key conditions of the 1970 scheme, which also left Baghdad with control over foreign affairs, defence and the issuing of currency.

However, his explanation did not rule out the possibility that the government might accede to the Kurds' demand for control of Kirkuk. The request has been refused until now because the city has a sizeable Arab community and a Turkish-speaking minority.

The deputy prime minister also rejected any idea that the final pact could be subject to international guarantees and insisted that it was an internal matter for Iraq. The first round of talks came as a surprise, because of the enmity between Baghdad and the opposition after 29 years of rebellion, and the conflict spawned by the exodus of most Iraqi Kurds after their ill-fated rebellion in March.

Observers believe, however, that the Kurds leaders see the conflict as their best bet in finding a solution, because international support for their plight may wane in the longer term, and their negotiating position will be weaker.

Iraqi sources said they expected the talks to last about one week and, if successful, Saddam and Mr Barzani would sign an agreement. If this is drawn up in line with the 1970 accord, it would give the Kurds control over most of their affairs, including taxation and running the local economy.

The proposal had been imposed by Baghdad, but the Kurds said it was inadequate because they wanted a percentage of oil revenue and greater powers to appoint officials in their region. (This is the first report from our correspondent since censorship was lifted)

Cheney outlines accord on Gulf

By DAVID WAITS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SECURITY arrangements for the Gulf began to take shape last night as Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, began a visit to the region. Mr Cheney, on his first trip to the area since the end of the Gulf war, began his tour with talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia, followed by a visit to Saudi Arabia and talks with King Fahd last night.

On arrival, Mr Cheney predicted "agreements in principle" with Gulf states this week on co-operation, including military training, regular joint exercises, emergency access to air bases, and storage of American weapons and supplies for any future conflict.

During his tour, Mr Cheney will emphasise that America has no intention of stationing ground forces in the region. However, the US Central Command, based in Florida, will set up a regional headquarters. The defence secretary will also visit Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

In a separate development, James Baker, the Secretary of State, is planning to embark on a new peace mission to the Middle East, probably starting later this week. Mr Baker told reporters at the State Department in Washington that he had agreed it was worth undertaking what would be his fourth mission since the end of the Gulf war, to try to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

Allies shepherd refugees for mass homecoming

By EDWARD GORMAN IN ZAKHO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

COALITION forces in northern Iraq are to begin moving as many as 200,000 Kurdish refugees back from the Turkish border into the safe area, senior officials said yesterday.

The massive repatriation effort, codenamed Operation Gallant Provider, is expected to begin today or tomorrow and could take only two weeks to complete. It will involve moving roughly two-fifths of the total refugee population on the Turkish border by truck, buses and helicopters down from the mountains.

Major-General Jay Garner, commander of Joint Task Force Bravo, said refugees would be brought from a number of border camps to three staging posts at Zakho in the west, Sarsank in the centre and Suriya in the east.

At these points the refugees will be marshalled in preparation for being moved back to their villages and towns within the safe area, the general said. Packages consisting of construction materials, tents, food and cooking equipment would be available.

American special forces soldiers who have been working in the refugee camps would be sent ahead to villages to help with the transition and would stay to assist the Kurds for several days. The general said he hoped some refugee camps might be completely evacuated. He said United Nations survey teams were already at work in the camps determining from which areas families had travelled. He said there was in his view an overwhelming desire among refugees to get back to their homes, a movement he is keen to

accelerate as water in the mountains begins to dry up with the end of the snow.

Operation Gallant Provider seems primarily aimed at families from settlements within the safe area. It is not yet clear what those from further south will choose to do. American officers say they hope some will decide to come down anyway and either settle within the zone or move back home into government-controlled areas. However, many observers here believe those from outside the safe area will

pushmerga guerrillas in villages and cities within the safe area could lead to conflict.

Colonel Richard Nabb said coalition forces would not allow guerrillas to carry weapons or operate checkpoints within urban areas and villages in the safe haven. However, American forces would not institute searches and would not sweep the countryside looking for arms. Asked if there were a danger of possible conflict between allied soldiers and guerrillas, he replied: "Yes."

Colonel Nabb described how he has worked closely with Nushwan Danoun, an Iraqi brigadier posted to Zakho by Baghdad to liaise with the Americans. He said it had been remarkable that there had been no shooting incidents over the two weeks given the "kind of tinderbox" in northern Iraq and the obvious fears conveyed to him by the brigadier about American intentions.

Meetings with Brigadier Danoun had concentrated principally on clearing the Iraqi military presence from within the zone, sorting out the policing issue in Zakho, and enlisting Iraqi help in locating minefields and booby traps around vacated government positions.

The colonel revealed that after the Iraqi police presence in Zakho had been scaled down from some 300 officers to less than 50, he had become concerned for the brigadier's safety and had even offered him US military protection. "I certainly felt it was in our interests to keep him alive," Colonel Nabb said.



Spy trial tests scales of justice

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Greek-Cypriot authorities in Cyprus face a tricky balancing act this week with the trial in Nicosia of four Israelis charged with attempting to eavesdrop on the Iranian embassy.

Justice must be done, but preferably without upsetting Iran, which insists that the four are "Zionist agents", nor the Israelis, who say they are innocent tourists. Both countries are watching the proceedings closely. Their security men are conspicuous at court hearings: the Israelis clean-shaven in navy summer suits and ties; the bearded Iranians soberly attired in brown suits without ties.

The four Israelis, two men and two women, were arrested a fortnight ago when a lone policeman on routine patrol found them in the lobby of the building housing the Iranian embassy. The four were caught tampering with a telephone junction box, the court was told last week. Tools allegedly clattered to the floor when they were spotted and they told the policeman they were looking for a toilet.

Israel did little to dampen speculation that they were secret service agents when it posted bail for them and then put them up at the Israeli embassy compound in Nicosia. The four have pleaded not

guilty to charges of attempted eavesdropping, conspiracy, illegal entry, loitering in suspicious circumstances, trying to damage telephone cables and carrying two-way radios without permission.

Unlike the new embassies of the Soviet Union and the United States, which face each other in Nicosia, the small Iranian mission is not considered an important Middle East listening post. It is, however, believed to be an important channel of communication between Iran and Hezbollah, the radical pro-Iranian organisation which holds several Western hostages in Lebanon.

After 75 years, if it's in it's still in



Times were hard when the first edition of British Vogue was published in 1916. Fashion pages featured clothes for ambulance drivers and "deverly contrived neck arrangements" to change the look of an old dress, and the Duchess of Wellington was photographed knitting a sock. The magazine was published fortnightly and cost one shilling.

Times are hard today as British Vogue celebrates its 75th anniversary, but not as hard as all that. Published monthly now, and priced £2.50, the May issue shows slip dresses costing from £160 to £1,195 and tells readers how to stuff organic vegetables.

"Brogue", as it was dubbed by its Manhattan parents back in 1916, is celebrating its jubilee with a party at the Royal College of Art on Monday to launch an exhibition of images from Vogue's decades of dictating style. On display, too, are the extravagant creations with a "diamond" jubilee theme, commissioned from 52 top international designers. British Vogue was followed by a French edition ("Frog") in 1920. German Vogue ("Frog"), launched in 1928, was closed in 1929, not to reappear until the Seventies. The daddy of them all, American Vogue, was a slim society journal established in 1892 (centenary celebrations break out across the Atlantic next year) and bought by Condé Nast in 1909. All the international editions shared Nast's brief for his magazine to be "a richly embellished fizzle of society, fashion, social conscience and frivolity", as well as its honest selling point, the Vogue cover.

Initially the covers were illustrated. They were creative set pieces with the title cleverly worked into the design. Eduardo Benito, Georges Lepape, Christian Bérard and Carl Erickson (known as Eric) were regulars on the team of artists. Picasso and Matisse made rare guest appearances. The artwork for the covers made news stands "blossom as a rose", as Vogue boasted in 1918. It was only in the Thirties that Condé Nast, ever the innovator, began to

The British version of the classic fashion magazine is celebrating its anniversary in style. Liz Smith looks back at its covers



Above: Beatrix Miller, longest ruling editor of "Brogue". Top: Horst's 1940 masthead, recreated in 1991 (far right)

experiment with photographed covers, in an effort to be more specific about what might be found inside. As Nast put it in a memo to his staff, "a cover should serve as an eloquent barker on behalf of the show that goes on behind the pages of the magazine".

The first cover photograph, by Steichen, showed a model in a red bathing suit, sitting cross legged and holding a beach ball above her head. By 1939 half of the 24 issues a year had photographic covers. Many of them star in an exhibition of Vogue covers that opens in London next month, ranging from the early illustrations and first photographs by Horst, Hoyningen-Huene and Beaton, to the Sixties covers by Bailey starring Jean Shrimpton and up to the present day. Elizabeth Tilberis, who took

over as editor of British Vogue in 1988, put her stamp on the magazine by pulling back the covers' focus from the traditional head shot to an image that might have come straight off the fashion pages. "I always thought it odd for a fashion magazine to cut off the clothes on the cover," she says. "When I go through a set of pictures the one that will make a cover is always evident. It can't be cutesy or homesy. It must be elegant, sophisticated and very Vogue."

Just as Nast always rated his covers A to D on resulting sales, his successors are always aware of the selling power of a cover. "We occasionally recognise a howler," Ms Tilberis says. "One cover last June with several girls dressed like cheerleaders in short raffia skirts was not a success." Her predecessor was Anna Wintour who, although British-born, had served a three-year stint as creative editor on American Vogue in New York, before jetting in to dust down the native quirkiness of British Vogue. Ms Wintour was rewarded with the editorship of Vogue in New York, where she returned after less than two years. The British edition has slipped back to its waywardness under Ms Tilberis, who caters for what she calls "the streak of madness that runs through all of us in Britain".

Brogue has had nine editors. The first, Elsie Champcommunal, 1916-22, had little to do but anglicise the spelling in American material, and insert a few stories for local colour. The second, Dorothy Todd, 1922-26, practically killed off the magazine with her over-literary tastes. The third, Alison Settle, 1926-35, can take credit for discovering Cecil Beaton. The next editor, Elizabeth Penrose, 1935-40, commissioned Constance Spry to write a gardening column, and referred to Vogue's Gracious Living section as Good Gracious Living.

Audrey Withers, editor 1940-60, now a sprightly 86-year-old who still holds down a full-time job with the Liberal Democrat party, protests that she was never really



Left: the art of Vogue in 1933, by Benito; right, Lady Diana Spencer's debut as a cover girl at the time of her marriage in 1981, by Snowdon



Cover story: from left, Vogue's first photographed cover, 1932; Fifties glamour; Sixties style, by Bailey; 75th anniversary supplement cover

interested in fashion. "I think it was just as well I was there during the only period for which I was qualified to edit a fashion magazine. I was far more interested in features and good writing."

As the country pulled out of wartime austerity she introduced adventurous travel features and encouraged Elizabeth David to write about food rather than merely run recipes. She is amused by what she sees in the magazine today. "In my time women looked to Vogue to tell them what to wear. They wrote in to ask about where the hemline and waistline should be before buying new clothes. Now everyone dresses exactly as they please and must look at Vogue just

for a kick. Yet the magazine gets thicker and thicker." Ailsa Garland was editor at the start of the Sixties (1961-64), but it was Lady Rendlesham, the fashion editor responsible for the Young Idea pages, who gave the magazine its authority by launching the swinging Sixties of designers such as Mary Quant, Ossie Clark and Foale & Tiffin, and letting the photographer David Bailey loose on the formerly serene fashion pages with his rough-edged sexual imagery.

Beatrix Miller (pictured here in 1986 Mats cartoon) arrived in 1964 and stayed to rule for 27 years. She is careful to point out that, like Audrey Withers, she was not "a fashion person". Her magazine career had begun in the



Left: the art of Vogue in 1933, by Benito; right, Lady Diana Spencer's debut as a cover girl at the time of her marriage in 1981, by Snowdon



Cover story: from left, Vogue's first photographed cover, 1932; Fifties glamour; Sixties style, by Bailey; 75th anniversary supplement cover

Fifties as an editorial secretary on Queen before she left for New York to spend two years as a copywriter on American Vogue. In 1958 Jocelyn Stevens lured her back to London to edit Queen.

"Clever old Condé Nast," she says. "He created a magazine that was a fascinating visual and literary mix. The word 'magazine' is Arabic for storehouse, in case you didn't know. And that is what I wanted it to be. A storehouse for talent of the moment. But it is vital to have a basic formula, and then you must surprise."

"Fashion is ridiculous if it is taken too seriously. I saw every garment before it was photographed. I edited that magazine down to the last semi-colon and I'm afraid

I wrote all the worst puns." For someone who has given up editing (she is currently writing two sets of memoirs but is not sure she wants either published), Ms Miller still has ideas. "I would like to do the dummy for a magazine, to be produced now that takes a quantum leap 10 years ahead. It would be great to do that and let everyone else catch up."

● Vogue 1916-1991, at the Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (May 13-24, 10am-6pm), includes designs created by 52 designers and 75 years of archive material. Admission free. ● Exhibition of Vogue covers from 1916 to 1991, June 5-17, open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, at 14-15 Stratford Place, St Christopher's Place, London W1. Admission free.

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A better view on the Tube

Can redesigned interiors lift the dismal image of the London Underground?

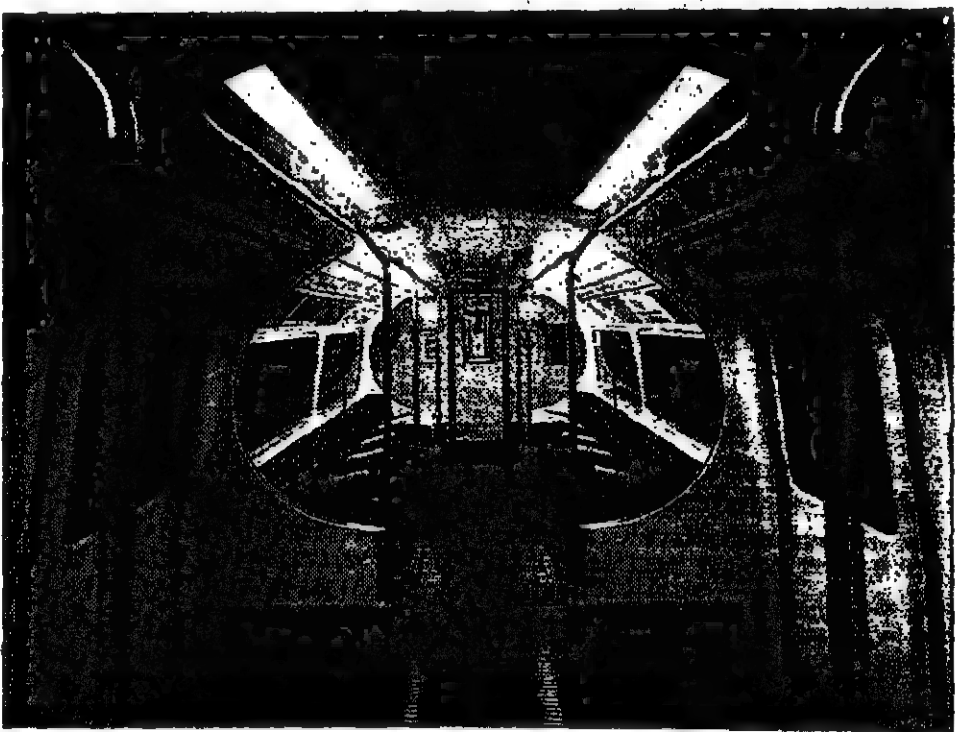
In a week when little good is being said about the Underground, commuters may be cheered to know that this summer, far below the streets of London, cleaner, brighter Tube trains will replace the customary tired old vehicles. Every week another refurbished train will join the service until half the fleet has been refitted.

Like the railways, the Underground was designed and built by engineers. Function and safety came first, but the logo, maps and posters testify to a design heritage stretching back beyond the Twenties. Hiring designers to work on the trains' interiors is a new move, intended to make the lives of the two million passengers who use the Tube daily more agreeable.

Marvin Shane, a director of Transport Design Consortium, an association of four design partnerships from different disciplines, began working with London Underground on signs, leaflets and literature. Once the Tube management realised that the designers could also improve the network's safety, and upgrade the service to customers, it commissioned them to re-style the interiors.

Ribbed-rubber flooring is just one of the improvements suggested by Mr Shane and his team. Even the most rigorous cleaning failed to restore the old Canadian maple slats to their original condition, but "the colour of the non-slip material will come up as a reward to the people who clean it", the designer says.

Seats, too, must withstand dirt and what Grahame Ison, the manager in charge of renewal and modernisation, delicately describes as "body fluids". In the past, a car would be out of commission for some time while a craftsman replaced the moquette. The new seats will have replaceable covers, however, and will be dry-cleaned



Keeping the commuter happy: the more inviting interior of a refurbished Victoria line train

regularly and quickly replaced help the partially sighted. Rails by the doors will help the elderly to get on and off.

The Fennell report, which followed the King's Cross fire, recommended that London Underground's public address system be improved, and that the alarms be standardised with those of British Rail. In future there will be pull-down

We are getting more for our money than the French

lever alarms in every doorway at shoulder height to make them accessible even to children. Being able to see, and be seen, will reassure lone travellers. The glass draught screens will be lowered to allow a clear view of the whole car, and windows will be added to each end of some coaches, making it possible to see through up to three vehicles.

Improved overhead lighting aims to create a feeling of space — a real bonus in the rush hour. The new seats, 20mm higher than the old ones, will encourage those seated to tuck their feet in, freeing the aisle for standing passengers. Brighter flooring at the heart of the coaches will attract people away from the

doors. Reducing the depth of the draught screens will also make access easier.

Each line will have new moquettes for the seats designed to reflect their different histories. The Victoria line, which is associated with royalty, will sport diamonds in red, white and blue on the seating. The Piccadilly line, which runs to Heathrow, will have a pattern like aircraft wings. The Bakerloo line has an art deco design in a rich terracotta. The new flooring will reflect these colours, offset by ivory walls.

Much of Mr Shane's work is in retail, and he has worked for Austin Reed, Lloyds Bank, and British Rail. He is also designing part of the new Trans Manche trains. "I don't think that anybody in the world can match London Underground for safety," he says.

Each Underground train costs about £50,000 to refit but Mr Ison says we are getting more for our money than the French: "The Paris Metro is refurbishing its existing trains, literally replacing like with like in the interiors paying as much per train as we are and achieving no benefit for the customers."

GERALDINE RANSON
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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 7 1991

ARTS AWARDS

Who wins, survives but who sponsors, prospers

Tomorrow, organisers will announce the names of four fringe theatre companies who will be showcased in a season at the Royal Court Theatre. The month-long festival will provide an extraordinary forum for performers used to working outside the spotlight of publicity in the shadowy world of experimental theatre. Even more extraordinary is that they owe their high-profile national exposure to a high street bank.

The event, from June 17 to July 10, is the Barclays New Stages Festival for Independent Theatre. The four featured companies are among the ten troupes that have won sponsorship awards during the first year of a scheme which is spending £600,000 over three years to encourage the experimental work of the fringe.

Ten years ago, such an alliance between a leading financial retailer and alternative theatre would have been unthinkable. Today, business sponsorship of the arts is both fashionable and profitable. In the past 15 years, business investment in the arts has risen from £600,000 a year to £35 million. Most of that is spent on direct sponsorship, funding new ballets or giant art exhibitions, yet most of the limelight goes to the relatively recent genre of arts awards, the cash-carrying prizes which enable the production of new work. Barclays New Stages is one such scheme.

At the end of June, the fifth annual Digital Dance Awards will be announced; in July the five Prudential Arts Awards category winners will be announced. Corporations have seized on arts awards as a desirable vehicle for their investment in the arts as a form of "own label" sponsorship, they put across a company's name most effectively.

The fact that they are competitive means they generate media interest, while their prize-giving ceremonies encourage press and broadcast coverage. Corporations are thus seen to be supporting the arts, associating their names with quality and a degree of social responsibility. Support for the arts enhances a company's image; so arts awards are good for business.

REVIEWS PAGE 18
King Priam, The Brother,
Radio and Dance

Prizes are often profitable for the business sponsors who make them possible, as Debra Craine reports

Geoff Shingles, chairman and chief executive of Digital Equipment Company, the computer giant, says: "We believe very clearly that the amount of money we've spent on sponsorship of the arts has more than repaid itself. We can measure business that we've got as a result of it. This is not the Salvation Army, this is business and there's a very strong business reason for sponsorship." The Digital Dance Awards, which pay out £130,000 each year, "give us the broader exposure with the public which we like to have."

But is such "designate sponsorship" good for the arts? Certainly all three awards schemes have paid for the commission of new work that would otherwise never have been made, while winning has heightened the profile of many smaller companies.

Yet the arts community regards these awards with a mixture of envy and suspicion; although everybody is happy to win one, many are unhappy with their "beauty contest" nature, the competitive tendering for sponsorship. Critics are also concerned about the amount of money - usually half the total - spent on administration and publicity.

Peter Jonas, general director of English National Opera, which won the first Prudential Opera Award in 1989, says that although it was "a terribly valuable award to win", arts awards in general are inefficient, with half the cost taken up in administration. "The Prudential has spent a lot of money on them. They could have sponsored an event at all four of the national companies for the money they spent on their awards."

"If you get big companies which have resources to inject money into work being done, if that money is totally diverted into competitions which may satisfy a company's desire for image and projection, then the work gets only a fraction of the money originally intended. Why don't they spend it all on sponsoring an opera?"

Philip Hedley, director of Theatre Royal Stratford East, winner of the 1990 Prudential

Award for Theatre, believes the company's lavish annual awards ceremony could pose an image problem. "It seems excessive. I think they've got to look to their public image: there's too obvious an imbalance in the procedures. It's like giving very rich dinners when you're trying to raise money for famine relief."

But corporations need a return on their investment. Prudential is spending £1 million over three years on its awards scheme, more than £400,000 of which goes on support costs. "These costs are absolutely necessary," says Blackett Ditchburn, head of sponsorship. "Otherwise we would get no commercial benefit from it. And I believe that through our arts awards, the arts themselves have enjoyed an enhanced profile. The way in which we celebrate our awards is an intrinsic part of making those awards worth having. Without the attendant expense, not just the dinner which is a relatively minor element, one has to challenge whether the awards would exist at all."

Barclays, meanwhile, takes

a low-key approach with its New Stages scheme, launched to give the company a less stuffy image. "We were trying to get into sponsoring a performance art in a way that allowed us to be non-metropolitan and youthful, and we wanted it to be in the fringe area because nobody else was in it," explains James Poole, head of corporate affairs. "Who is going to take a real punt on mixed-media art forms? We think we've cracked a need and we will get the reward of being well-regarded for it."

One reason why the fringe has not been exploited by sponsors is its experimental, and possibly controversial, nature. According to Poole, such risks are minimised by the awards format. "One of the purposes of the structure we've put onto New Stages is to provide this gap between ourselves as the sponsor and the artistic side. We need to be able to say we didn't choose that winner, winners were chosen by the judges."

That may sound like business trying to have it both ways, but such is the prerogative of the banker. If those in the arts want financial support from the world of Mammon, they have to dance to his tune.



A suitable case for sponsorship? Performance artist Rose English is one of the Barclays New Stages award-winners, four of whom are coming to the Royal Court Theatre for a season from June 17 to July 10

Short ensuite

AT LAST, a new Pinter, or at least a new Pinterette. If it survives its financial troubles, the beleaguered Almeida Theatre, in Islington, will this autumn present the first play the brooding genius has written for three years. Like all the original work Harold Pinter produced in the Eighties, it will be short, only 30 minutes or so; and like *One for the Road* and *Mountain Language*, it will once again involve the political issues that have so obsessed him in the past decade. The cast is still uncertain; but the director will be the author himself.

Storm warning

PETER Greenaway has lost his race against the clock to finish *Prospero's Books*, his version of *The Tempest*, in time to compete in the Cannes Film Festival, which opens on Thursday. But all is not lost: 20 to 30 minutes will be screened on May 17 as a taster, partly in homage to his leading actor, Sir John Gielgud. From June 24 the Watermans Arts Centre will mount the first London Greenaway exhibit since the late Se-



Gielgud: a Prospero for Peter Greenaway
ventures; the selection will include drawings related to *Prospero's Books*.

Last chance . . .

ALTHOUGH Sir Christopher Wren created much more besides St Paul's Cathedral, there is no doubt that the building, which occupied 40 years of his career, became an obsession. Some idea of the scope and detail of his designs, and the changes and vicissitudes they went through, can be gained from the many documents, engravings, models and drawings on show at the Royal Academy of Arts (071-439 7438) in Piccadilly, until Sunday.

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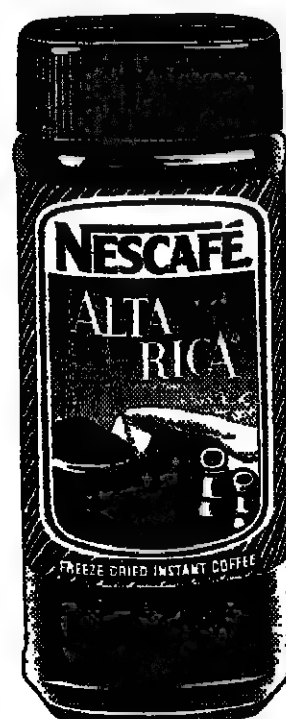


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All who Cannes still do

Fashions change but for Geoff Brown the festival is still a must

Around the world, 35,000 people are packing their suitcases with film cans, anxiety pills, smutty lotion, bow ties, dinner jackets, earplugs, cucumberbrins and indignation tablets. The Cannes Film Festival starts on Thursday.

Who are they and why do they go to spend ten bruising days chomping a small French Riviera town once praised in a guidebook for its "aristocratic intimacy"? They go partly because everyone else is going: if your business is selling, making, distributing or criticising films, Cannes is the festival you miss at your peril. Dissect the jostling crowd and you find big-name journalists and lowly scribes, penniless film hopefuls totting a sample reel, wheeler-dealers, shakers and fakers, thieves, pickpockets, and innocent tourists crushed underfoot.

Cannes still has an image of glittering premieres, cocktails on yachts, and starlets showing their all on the beach. The bright lights continue to shine, though it is a long time since the young Brigitte Bardot posed in her bikini on the US aircraft carrier Midway and Diana Dors arrived for a screening in a blue Cadillac convertible and low-cut blue dress, with — the crowning touch — blue hair.

That was in the Fifties, in the festival's giddy youth, when continental movies — the main preserve of Cannes — still seemed novel, even naughty. The global film community has moved on since then (the word "naughty" would perhaps be inappropriate), and Cannes reflects the changes.

In the main sections, new films by top-flight international directors and lively young sparks are still to be found. Lurking in smaller screening rooms, though, are *Fat Guy Goes Nutzoid*, *Stef Nazis Must Die*, and all the other low-grade products tossed out by producers eager for the easy buck.

Money-men and cigars have ebbed out the starlets and bikini, prompted by the festival's over-expanding market section. Commercially-minded films are also edging their way into the main competition section. This year, five of the announced roster are American; France features four, Britain, alas, none, although Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*, an adaptation of *The Tempest*, would have made the journey had the director completed his post-production chores in time.

The wheeling and dealing brings results: good ideas can ferment in the scum of people. And when a film wins the principal prize, the Golden Palm, the world takes notice. Sometimes the attention is short-lived — who remembers *Chronicle of the Years of Fire*, the 1975 winner? — but many bask in the limelight. Steven Soderbergh gained an instant reputation by winning the Golden Palm in 1989 for his first feature *Sex, Lies and Videotape*.

For critics, Cannes is educational, presenting a dauntingly vast spectrum of cinema. From eight in the morning until the late hours, films of all kinds rain down: the good, the bad, the ugly, the ridiculous, the unwatchable. I'm going. Wish me luck.

All economic indicators and Major's own standing justify an early election, writes Woodrow Wyatt

June 13, and a Tory win

A strange assumption grows that there will be no early election. Last Thursday's local council results are held to prove that Mr Major could not win one, that Labour would have most seats in a new parliament and that if Labour lacked an overall majority it could rely on the Liberal Democrats. There might be a rerun of 1964 and 1974, with a Labour government hanging on for five or six years after a shaky start. That is not how I read last Thursday's results.

More than half of the net Tory council losses went to the Liberal Democrats. In the South, where Tory support is strongest, an ITV exit poll showed that one fifth of those voting Liberal Democrat would vote Tory in a general election. In 1987 the Lib Dem's forerunner, the Alliance, was second in 228 seats. It is highly unlikely that Labour would overtake them in more than a handful, or that it would come first in enough to be the largest party in

the Commons, let alone win an absolute majority. This is rough on Mr Ashdown and his fancy ideas for proportional representation. Whereas many voters see nothing terrifying in councils being controlled by his party, they are not ready to take the same view of Parliament. In slow-change Britain, it could be 30 years before the voters regard Labour as finished and the Liberal Democrats as the serious alternative party of government.

Labour appears determined to write itself off by misjudging the lasting impact made by Mrs Thatcher. The proposal to raise penalties on high earners to 59 per cent by higher national insurance contributions and increasing the top tax band to 50 per cent is seen more as spite and discouragement

than a practical attempt to raise much revenue, which it would not. The promised additional 9 per cent national insurance payment by standard taxpayers earning more than £380 a week is lunacy. Nearly 3.5 million skilled workers, junior professionals and management staff would be hit, and so would a number of unskilled workers. These are just the voters Labour must have to oust the Tories.

Labour says it needs the extra money to improve social security benefits; this wins sympathy in conversation but not in votes. Mr Kinnock has also blown the gift on the NHS by honestly stating there would be no more money for it, merely greater effort directed from Whitehall with the cooperation of the unions. To which the only response is a loud guffaw.

On May 17, a reduction in the rate of inflation to around 6 per cent will be announced. Lower interest rates will presumably quickly follow, and mortgages will feel much less resentful. The community charge bogy is at least temporarily quiescent and will not be an issue for another year. Unemployment and business collapses will remain high, but not so fearsome as they will be in October or the first half of next year. The recession is bottoming out, but there are many things lurking in the economic potting-shed which could badly damage the Tories in the Midlands and the South when the government's time is running out.

In 1978, Mr Callaghan thought his best chance was October; then he dithered and was boxed in, eventually being forced to announce a dissolution on April 7 and an election for May 3. Doubtless he later regretted that he had not chosen October. Prime ministers have freedom of manoeuvre; they are unwise to let it slip away.

Mrs Thatcher's wholehearted support in a campaign in which respected Tory MPs overtly or covertly critical of him will not stand. A convincing win would end party bickering.

A June election could not raise accusations of running away, because Labour incessantly demands one, and four-yearly elections have been standard Tory practice since May 1979. Even if the Tories lose the Monmouth by-election next week, the seat would return with the support that flows back to a government in a general election. The week beginning May 19 looks ideal to announce polling on June 13 — five days before the Royal Ascot meeting, when the anti-Major tabloids will have a chance to whip up readers' envy by publishing photos of men in tog hats and exotically-tanned ladies casting lobster and drinking champagne. And by then the sun may be warming us into general contentment.

Overall Tory majority: 45 plus.

Beating the bad Guy's image

The hospital that led the way to the market has come under attack for job cuts. Its chief admits to poor timing but tells Philip Bassett, industrial editor, that strategy will not change

The Palladian facade of Guy's Hospital has provided the background for dozens of television news reports in the week since the management announced plans to cut 600 jobs. As the trailblazer for the government's health service reforms, such an announcement was bound to attract attention, and the local elections made sure that publicity was maximised.

Peter Griffiths, the chief executive of the self-governing trust which now runs the hospital, admits ruefully: "We've learnt a lot in the past week about internal and external communication."

"But", he adds firmly, "there is nothing that persuades me or my trust board that our strategy is wrong."

Talking to Mr Griffiths is much like talking to a senior manager at IBM. Words such as "products", "vision" and "strategy" pepper his conversation. The language of business management might jar with anyone who has first-hand experience of the falling inefficiencies, the huge caring effort, cash shortages and proud commitment that mingle to form the National Health Service. Mr Griffiths himself makes the crucial distinction. "Health care is not a business. There are no bottom lines which are as demonstrable as profit. But we need to be more businesslike."

Appropriately, Guy's Hospital is no stranger to commerce. Its 18th-century founder, Thomas Guy, the son of a wharfinger, was a successful auctioneer and publisher who made his fortune by speculation in South Sea stocks.

In the run-up to the health reforms, Guy's started to re-organise itself by means of a five-year plan to ensure that it will be the standard-bearer for the new, market-based health service. A hospital like Guy's is on the scale of a large business. The immediate costs of the management team: 8,000 staff, 1,600 beds, 70,000 in-patients, 350,000 outpatients, an annual budget of £130 million.



Griffiths: job 'infinitely easier'

This would be daunting enough for any manager, but hospitals present two key differences, in management terms. First, hospitals are a powerful political issue. They are watched closely by a public that still has an enormous commitment to the welfare state, despite the ideological drive of the past 12 years. Thousands of jobs are being lost in industry every day now, but no manufacturing plant could ever have provoked the outcry prompted by the job cuts at Guy's.

Second, unlike perhaps any other institution, a hospital's most influential, talented and highly-paid staff — its consultants — are not isolated at the top of the organisation, but work on the shop floor, intimately involved in the provision of the organisation's services.

The old funding system gave hospital consultants great power, for essentially it rewarded those who, through persuasion or arm-twisting, were able to mount the best cases for their specialisms. According to Mr Griffiths, many consultants felt that their first loyalty was to their specialism and their patients, regardless of whether the hospital could afford what the consultants wanted. Hospital managers were caught between the consultants and the powerful, well-organised health trade unions.

Career advancement also militated against good hospital management. To get on, hospital managers traditionally had to get out, moving to a district or a region, and leaving behind at the hospitals less experienced or lower calibre managers. Mr Griffiths himself surprised many people when he moved back to Guy's from his job as deputy chief executive of the NHS. He said his like claim that the formation of trusts means that a career in health management now has two pinnacles, to the benefit of hospitals.

Union influence has been reduced by the labour market reforms of the last decade. But the most fundamental aspect of the government's reforms — separating the purchase of NHS services from their provision — is forcing consultants to change too. Contracts for hospital services mean that it is possible to measure demand, not just for a particular hospital, but, if necessary, for individual consultants (or "service providers", as Mr Griffiths calls them).

The net effect is to make hospitals much more manageable. Hospital managers will be able to measure exactly how much work they are getting. Now if they see work drifting away in particular specialisms — or across the board — they will be able to take action: either by pulling out of the field altogether, or requiring the particular consultant to improve.

For example, 60 per cent of the workload at Guy's comes from its contract with the local health authority, a quarter from the South East Thames health region, and the rest from 29 contracts, principally with other health authorities. If the hospital falls below or exceeds its targets, its income will precisely reflect this.

Such exact accounting allows Mr Griffiths to come down on "contracts make the management job infinitely easier". But for a London teaching hospital such as



Free-market founder: Thomas Guy made his money in stocks

Guy's, the changes do nothing to ease the immediate task.

Back in December, the Guy's Trust board developed a three-sided strategy: first to staff the

board fully, taking on the executive directors needed, then to take stock financially, and third to develop a "10-year plan, or vision" to use Mr Griffiths' term.

This plan has to ensure the provision of services over the period, and recognise that Guy's does some things better than others, so that the hospital can concentrate on its strengths.

Come the first day of the new health service era, last month, that vision had to be clarified further. The financial stocktaking revealed that in the first year of the new strategy, Guy's had inherited a debt of £5.8 million. In addition, the board wanted to achieve a further £5 million of savings by withdrawing some services so as to reinvest the money in building work, and improving staff pay and benefits.

Peter Griffiths and his team were determined to deal with the financial shortfall in a planned, managed way, rather than in what he sees as the traditional, chaotic way of the health service. Businesses struggling to cut their costs, especially in a recession, tend to take the easy way out: cutting jobs. The managers at Guy's decided they had no alternative but to do the same in order to achieve their objectives of cutting the hospital's cost base and making it more competitive than other hospitals touring for NHS contracts.

Other hospitals too, whether or not they have opted out, will be cutting jobs. What is different at Guy's is that action is being taken upfront, before the hospital is in difficulty, not as a last resort, as announced to staff in the newsletter. Peter Griffiths admits that this was when the trouble started, and the huge political and media attention has not yet died down. He is surprised at the intensity of the furore, but says "We have nothing to hide." The trust will publish details of its business strategy later this month.

In spite of the outcry, Mr Griffiths and his team are not to be diverted from what they see as their task. Now that a market is working within the health service, they, and the other management teams in the hospitals that have opted out, feel they have to respond to the laws of supply and demand, or go under.

Mr Griffiths is in no doubt about this necessity. "In a situation in London where it's clear the number of hospitals and services will fall, we want to ensure for our hospital and our staff that this trust and this hospital survive and flourish, and that we are not among those that decline and disappear."

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Like Lord Chalfont, I wear many hats. I am not only a journalist widely credited with vision and worldliness. Like Alun, I am also a director of a highly prestigious firm of public relations consultants. I too like to retain the balance when the character of a world figure or institution is besmirched by the excesses of our notoriously free Western press.

In our world of operations, Alun Chalfont is something of a patron saint. His doughty advice to the Shah of Iran in the 1970s did much to prevent a revolution in that neck of the woods. In the Eighties, his magnificent biography of the Sultan of Brunei, *By God's Will*, made it abundantly clear that far from being a spendthrift playboy, the Sultan is "an intelligent, thoughtful political figure of considerable stature" and that "above all, he has a manifest and deep concern for the welfare of his people, and an affection for them which... is wholeheartedly returned". I couldn't have put it better myself.

Now, in the Nineties, Alun has taken to blowing the trumpet for Singapore. In the British Airways in-flight magazine he has described it as "a model city-state", neatly dismissing Amnesty International's multiple complaints against its human rights record by pointing to "a feeling of safety and stability in the city, accompanied by the usual complaints from the Press and foreign do-gooders about the 'authoritarian' style of government". Spot on!

I mention all this because my

own public relations consultancy, Dodd-Gee Enterprises plc, has taken an equally challenging commission on behalf of an international statesman, namely Mr B.L.Z. Bubbs of the Devil Incarnate Organisation. He has been deeply, deeply concerned at vicious smear campaigns conducted by the Western media. They have sought to vilify not only him and his family but also his beloved country, Hell, that marvellous VIP hotspot and ultimate resort of so many world leaders.

I was just finishing a hard morning's work on the Cruella de Ville account. We had managed to place a lovely, positive piece in *Hello!* magazine. ("I get so hurt when foreign do-gooders complain about my 'authoritarian' style of government," says Cruella over a cup of tea. "Those darling little pups just adore the stability and safety I offer them.") Suddenly, the door burst into flames. "I'll show myself in, if I may," said Mr B.L.Z. Bubbs. "Apple?" he said, offering me a delicious fruit. As we both chewed away, he explained his position. "My kingdom has so much to offer. Our people are the warmest you will ever encounter. Our climate is constant all the year round. Our prime industries, walking and gnashing of teeth, show a most encouraging annual rate of increase. Once people have come, they stay forever. Yet we are misunderstood by the media, and a lot of unhelpful carping is printed. We want you to show the world the positive aspects of the new, exciting Hell."

Despite his fiery reputation, he struck me at once as an intelligent, thoughtful political figure of considerable stature. I accepted the challenge without a moment's hesitation. "Another apple?" he said. Still crunching, I plunged headlong into work.

My first task was to commission an up-to-the-minute new logo to show the dynamic, forward-looking, gentler new Hell. The old cloven-hoof logo, despite a certain period charm, is no longer up to the task. Our super new pronged-fork logo, born from the drawingboard, conveys Hell's new thrust far better.

We were in desperate need of a fresh slogan. My assistant suggested that "Hell — Setting the World on Fire" had a certain ring, but I was after something a little more fizzy, eventually plumping for "A Big Hello to Hell — The Damnation Sensation that's Sweeping the Nation!" with the slightly more downmarket, "There's Always Something Cookin' in Hell!" printed on T-shirts and worn by our lovely troops of dolly-birds, Hell's Belles.

Within weeks, we had thrown a reception — a fork supper (very in keeping) — to launch what we see as the hottest product in town. A softer, more approachable Mr Bubbs gave a witty, caring sort of speech, and afterwards the dearest little apple vol-au-vents were consumed by the assembled journalists.

We are now hoping that dear old Alun will be able to place an article in *High Life* magazine. But then again, he probably has bigger fish to fry.

Who takes charge?

Although Dan Quayle yesterday missed his appointment with destiny as America's three-minute president, constitutional experts have been considering what might happen here if John Major were suddenly stricken with an illness requiring a temporary transfer of power.

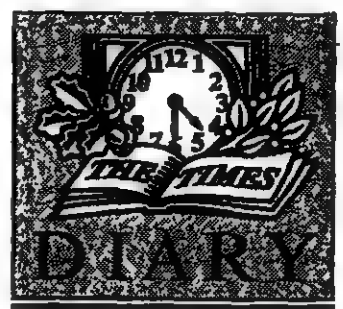
The American constitution makes clear that Vice-President Quayle is, as they say, a mere heartbeat away from the presidency; but in Britain there is no directive covering incapacity of a prime minister. Downing Street says that decision-making would be in the hands "collectively, of the most senior ministers".

The official cabinet list ranks Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, highest in seniority after the



prime minister, but because of his legal responsibilities he would not be a suitable stand-in. Third in the pecking order is Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Lord Blake, the historian, believes the matter would be at the discretion of the prime minister. "The natural choice would be



Douglas Hurd, says Blake. "But if he were abroad it could be Kenneth Baker. Somehow I think it wouldn't be Michael Heseltine."

Political observers agree that Hurd would almost certainly be the man to receive the crucial telephone call from Andrew Turnbull, Major's principal private secretary. However, it is over 30 years since a stand-in enjoyed more than a brief moment of glory. In November 1956, Rab Butler deputised for three weeks while Sir Anthony Eden recuperated in the West Indies.

The most recent occasion was in August 1986, when Mrs Thatcher underwent an operation on her hand. She briefly passed power to Lord Whitelaw, then deputy prime minister. "Margaret was under anaesthetic for about an hour, and was perfectly fit again the same day," says Whitelaw, who was at his Cumbria retreat while nominally in charge. "I didn't have to decide anything."

History reformed

A s Boris Yeltsin prepares to set up his own KGB in the Russian Federation, the original model is trying to clay Mikhail Gorbachev credit for his pecking order. It has erected a plaque to Yuri Andropov, his predecessor but one as president and party leader, claiming that he, not Gorbachev, was the architect of perestroika.

The plaque is in one of Moscow's bloodiest buildings, the Lubianka, outside the suite of rooms from which Andropov ran the secret police for 13 years. The rooms, preserved as a memorial to him, were recently filmed by John Ranelagh, who is making a series of programmes about the KGB for Channel 4. "This was where Yuri Andropov, chairman of the KGB, lived and worked, and where perestroika was born," says the plaque.

"His old organisation is immensely proud of Andropov," says Ranelagh. "The plaque was the first thing they wanted to show me."

The claim does not surprise Harry Shukman, lecturer in Russian history at St Antony's College, Oxford. "The KGB is trying to show what a modern, reforming body it is," he says. "It would not even be beyond it to have set up the whole shrine for the benefit of the cameras."

Although it is the most lucrative of all literary awards, with a top prize of £25,000, the announcement of this year's NCR shortlist failed to raise even a smidgeon of publicity. Knowing how to appeal to the sporting instinct, Ludovic Kennedy, chairman of the judges, has suggested to National Cash Register that the contest should be renamed the National, with future award ceremonies coinciding with the Aintree classic.

Out for the count

No details of the results of last week's local elections in Ambridge and Borchester passed the lips of the normally talkative characters of *The Archer*, even though the late Dan Archer was for years chairman of the parish council and another character, Brian Aldridge, once considered running for Borchester county council. Surely the everyday story of

country folk should have referred to this topical issue of rural life. Not so, says producer Niall Fraser who confirms that the decision was deliberate. "We ignored the elections because they were just too political for us." But how will Ambridge avoid mention of Michael Heseltine's plans for single-tier local government, a proposal likely to have shire and district councils at each other's throat? "We have never created a district council," says Fraser. "We do not tend to delve into local government breakdown. Characters often talk about living in South Borchester, so that could be the name of the district council." How will we know if it is abolished?

Public exhibition

Sir John Pope-Hennessy has robustly defended attacks in his forthcoming autobiography on his successors as director of the Victoria & Albert Museum. In the book, *Learning to Look*, the 77-year-old, scholar describes Elizabeth Esteve-Coll as a "bad employer" and says Sir Roy Strong's regime "reduced the museum to a level from which it will not recover for many years".

Sir Roy describes the attack as the ranting of a forgotten old man, consumed by envy. "I think it was difficult for him to see someone like me, from a grammar school and terraced-house background, suddenly storm the art world in lace and velvet," he says. Speaking from his home in Florence, Sir John replies: "It may be unusually harsh, but I meant it to be harsh and I haven't the slightest regret." By contrast, Mrs Esteve-Coll's official response is saintly. "Memoirs are very personal," she says. "When someone looks back over his life he is entitled to his own vision of the past." Perhaps privately she longs to break a few plates from the ceramics department over Sir John's head.

مكتبة المصلح



RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

The American presidential race of 1992, its start delayed by the Gulf War and the death of Democrats willing to challenge the commander-in-chief, has now begun. President Bush did not intend to begin his call to the hustings when he went jogging at Camp David on Saturday. Instead, a faulty trigger in the circuitry of his heart fired the starting gun which politicians of both parties seemed unwilling to fire for themselves.

The unorthodox start has led to two results. The Republicans are reassessing the membership of their team, with an immediate query over the candidacy of the vice president, Dan Quayle. On the Democratic side, senior figures who were wondering whether to stand against an apparently unbeatable Mr Bush have seen in the president's irregular heartbeat a sudden call of duty to the party's colours.

The vice president has never fully recovered from the mauling he received in 1988 at the hands of both his opponents and his own side over his failure to serve in Vietnam. He has won respect for bold advice to Mr Bush from many in Washington, and has certainly toured the country to raise money for Republican candidates. But he is still not the man whom most Americans, even of his own party, would like to see a heartbeat away from the White House, particularly if that heartbeat is at all erratic.

There is nothing in the rulebook to say that an incumbent presidential ticket should remain the same. If Mr Bush wanted as vice president General Colin Powell or his old friend, James Baker, history would be on his side. He need not be rushed into a decision about his own or his vice president's future unless his heart trouble becomes chronic. But the Quayle issue will not now go away.

The Democrats still have only one declared candidate, the former Massachusetts senator, Paul Tsongas, whose vigorously pro-business programme serves chiefly to embarrass the more traditional party barons such as New York Governor

Mario Cuomo and House majority leader, Richard Gephardt. Both are waiting to see if they can win before deciding whether to run.

Mr Tsongas will do his greatest service to the Democrats if he can divert attention from the programmes of Jesse Jackson and the north-eastern liberals who tend to dominate the early primaries. Others such as Senator Al Gore of Tennessee may then come forward as a plausible presidential candidate. The Democrats have had only four years out of the past 23 in the White House and are in danger of being seen as the party of Congress but not of charismatic national leadership.

The Republican agenda for 1992 is already becoming clear. Before he began his now famous jog, Mr Bush delivered one of his sharpest attacks on the Democratic belief in centralised programmes for the relief of poverty and racial equality. He rejected the claims of President Johnson's Great Society and promoted a society of individual enterprise, choice and self-help. Republicans are convinced that ordinary Americans are opposed to further spending and statutory discrimination in favour of ethnic minorities. They feel they can now exploit more overtly the white backlash that Ronald Reagan exploited covertly.

The president's speech on Saturday replaced one which he had intended to deliver on foreign policy but which was judged untimely because of post-war disappointments in the Middle East. Many miles of yellow ribbon will have been expended before the 1992 campaign is over. Behind every parade of returning troops is a Republican vote-catcher. But as the campaign begins in earnest, both sides realise that the important battleground is at home. This is not new. The politics of the United States has always been that of the melting pot. But by now the melting was supposed to have been complete. This could be an unpleasant campaign.

REVENGE OF THE JOBLESS

Unemployment was the dog that did not bark in the 1983 and 1987 general elections. The Conservatives cruised to victory with large majorities despite two to three million people being out of work. Now an analysis by *The Times* (see page 7) suggests that there might indeed have been a correlation in last week's local elections between rising unemployment and electoral swings against the Tories in southern seats. In virtually all the marginal seats in the south, the Conservatives would have lost on last Thursday's vote, unemployment was rising much faster than the national average. Might job losses, and the recession of which they are the most public symptom, be more important in the forthcoming general election than in the previous two?

In 1983, unemployment did appear to change the way individuals voted. The Tories suffered a 1 point fall in their national vote, but a 10 point fall amongst the unemployed. This barely affected the result because most of the unemployed lived in Labour areas, merely increasing anti-government votes in safe Labour constituencies. Meanwhile, those people who kept their jobs were probably more pleased with the fall in inflation than they were worried about the rise in unemployment. There was a widespread feeling that British industry was overmanned, that a shake-out, however painful, was necessary. Fewer than a third of people questioned in 1982 blamed the government for it.

This recession is different. A *Times* survey earlier this year found that unemployment was rising five times faster in Conservative than in Labour seats. Admittedly, the unemployment level in these seats is still low, but the trend worries those who suddenly fear a fate that, until now, has seemed remote from their lives. Moreover, while the jobs lost in the early 1980s were

primarily male, manual and unionised in manufacturing firms, this year's shake-out is hitting white-collar, mainly non-unionised, workers in the service sector.

These are the people who tended to vote Labour until the mid-1970s, but switched to the Conservatives in 1979. They did what the government advised throughout the Eighties, started or joined small, new companies in what was seen as the expansionist sector of the economy in the most thriving part of the country. They worked hard and did not join a trade union. Many took out large mortgages to buy houses in the south.

Such voters believed that the 1980-2 recession had made industry leaner and fitter and able to survive any subsequent economic downturn without the need to shed jobs. Even if they accept the rationale for John Major's deflationary winter, they are unlikely to excuse him the blame for what it is costing them. Unlike many of those who were made redundant in the early 1980s, these are not the sort of people who will not bother to vote. And they are likely to be as mobile in their political allegiance as in their economic behaviour.

Improvement elsewhere in the economy will help to offset this. Inflation, which hurts everybody, and interest rates, which hurt many, are both likely to fall further this year. But unemployment lags behind the rest of the economy by several years. While output started to rise again in 1982, unemployment did not begin to fall until 1986. The pattern is likely to be repeated in this recession. Even if growth starts to pick up later this year, jobs will continue to be lost well into 1992. The longer the Conservatives postpone an election, the more electoral damage this could cause. Unemployment could turn into the dog that bit.

A PRINCE IN BOHEMIA

La Bohème is not just an opera, nor merely the bourgeois lifestyle which Puccini celebrated. Bohemia is also a province of the modern state of Czechoslovakia, notoriously described by Neville Chamberlain as "a far away country" before he ceded the Sudetenland to Hitler at Munich. This week's visit to Prague, Brno and Bratislava by the Prince and Princess of Wales should be seen here, as it will be by Czechs and Slovaks, as the symbolic revival of an old alliance. The British and the Bohemians may be far apart, but religion and dynasty have regularly linked the two nations.

As a future head of the Church of England, Prince Charles will no doubt be shown the church in Prague where the reformer Jan Huss preached. The Prince is himself a direct descendant of a king of Bohemia. His ancestor is not the blind King John, who fell heroically at Crécy, nor his celebrated son, Charles IV, later Holy Roman Emperor, who built the university and bridge which bear his name in Prague, but Frederick, Elector Palatine and husband of Elizabeth, eldest daughter of our own James I.

This romantic couple, later known as the Winter King and Queen, reigned in Prague for only one winter from 1619 to 1620. Frederick's election to the throne by the Bohemian diet ended in disaster when the Protestant Frederick was defeated by the Catholic Habsburgs at the battle of the White Mountain, overture to the Thirty Years' War. The deposed couple lost the Palatinate too and sought exile in the Hague. Their son Rupert became a famous general in the English Civil War. Their daughter, Sophia became Electress of Hanover; her son George inherited the English throne.

The president of the Czech and Slovak republic, Václav Havel, is unlikely to feel awkward with his royal guest. He and the prince ought to get on famously. The Bohemian throne was elective rather than hereditary, so Mr Havel can claim that his office has changed its name rather than its substance. The anti-monarchism of the first republic of Thomas Masaryk and Eduard Beneš, which was directed against the previous Habsburg regime, would be absurd in the republic of President Havel, whose chief adviser is Prince Karl Schwarzenberg.

For his part, Prince Charles is too modest to remind a host with such a record of resistance to communism of how, several times during the 1980s, the heir to the throne broke with precedent by publicly criticising Ceausescu's Romania. Charles will visit one of the worst cases of environmental despoliation, in a Bohemian mining region. But the prince is likely to return full of admiration for the fragile, grimy grandeur of old Prague.

While the Prince of Wales may not share President Havel's taste for café society, the two men undoubtedly share a deeply serious attitude to life. Both have been disciples of elderly philosophers: Jan Patočka for the president, Laurens van der Post for the prince. Both share a love of the theatre, though Charles will have some explaining to do if the conversation turns to his beloved Shakespeare. The Bard once made a curious reference to "the coast of Bohemia", which provided the title for a novel in English by the Czech writer Zdena Tomin. If, as the prince advocates, more Shakespeare is to be taught in British schools, Mr Havel may want to be reassured that British geography lessons will be improved too.

Threat to scrap HMS Endurance

From Lord Shackleton and others
Sir, It has long been established that the decision to withdraw HMS Endurance from service in the South Atlantic in 1982 was one factor which precipitated the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. If different signals had been given, the conflict might have been avoided.

The Franks committee after the war concluded that it was inadvisable for the Government to announce a decision to withdraw HMS Endurance and that, in the light of the developing situation in the second half of 1981, they should have reconsidered their decision to pay off HMS Endurance at the end of her 1981/82 tour. (Para. 288, Cmd. 8787, 1983).

After the Falklands war Endurance was given a major refit, to enable her to continue her annual deployments until 1995, when a modern replacement would take over, and remain the only ice-strengthened ship in the Royal Navy.

It is now believed that the Ministry of Defence is proposing once again to scrap the ship, and not to replace her. Attempts to get confirmation one way or the other from ministers in both Houses of Parliament have been unsuccessful so far, and there appear to be grounds for concern.

Much has changed in the situation affecting the Falklands and the Antarctic since 1982 and there could conceivably be arguments for a different balance in our defence arrangements and military presence in the South Atlantic and the Antarctic. But in that event we urge the government to declare its intentions and deploy the arguments so that they can be properly considered and debated.

Yours faithfully,
SEARLETON, JULIAN AMERY,
BUXTON,
CALLAGHAN OF CARDIFF,
VIVIAN FURZE, JELICOE, PYM,
MICHAEL SHERRY,
Palace of Westminster,
May 3.

Future of Cyprus

From the High Commissioner for Cyprus

Sir, Your report of April 23, entitled "Denktaş gesture offers hope of Cyprus deal" is completely off the mark, as is Mr Denktaş's attempt to appear serious in seeking a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

The suggestions to which you refer in no way allow for a serious dialogue to lead us out of the impasse that Mr Denktaş created with his known preconditions at the meeting with the UN Secretary General in March last year.

It would be farcical to consider Mr Denktaş's suggestions for a military freeze, or those concerning the town of Varosha and a non-aggression pact as the steps necessary toward the establishment of a unitary federal independent state, as provided by the relevant UN resolutions and the agreements signed by Mr Denktaş himself in 1977 and 1979. If anything, Mr Denktaş's suggestions are aimed at perpetuating the division and consolidating the facts accomplished of the Turkish invasion.

We await serious proposals on the substance of the problem from the Turkish side. If Turkey and Mr Denktaş are ready to heed the spirit of the times, they must come forward with constructive proposals that are consistent with the UN resolutions and the high-level agreements.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELOS ANGELES,
Cyprus High Commissioner,
93 Park Street, W1,
April 26.

Listed buildings

From Mr Bob Reid

Sir, Sir Norman Foster's Willis Faber building in Ipswich merits all the "reflected glory" of grade-one listed status (photograph, April 26). It is not, however, the first 17th-century building to be listed for its architectural and historic interest.

That particular accolade goes to the BOAC building at 83-85 Buchanan Street in Glasgow. Designed by Gillespie, Kidd and Coia, this four-storey office building was built in 1970. According to *Historic Scotland*, it is noted for its "cooped reinforced concrete structure" which is expressed in "three floors of shaped jettied windows and cornice". Come and see it for yourself! Britain includes more than English Heritage would have us believe.

Yours faithfully,
BOB REID (Planning officer),
Glasgow City Council,
231 George Street, Glasgow,
April 29.

Small claims change

From Mr B. V. Rowe

Sir, The County court small claim jurisdiction is to be increased by £500 to £1,000 on July 1, 1991. Whilst this may be a welcome step for parties involved in minor building disputes, consumer contracts, and similar actions, the increase will seriously damage the interests of all those seeking compensation for personal injuries.

Countless do so each year, with the assistance of legal representation, secure in the knowledge that their legal costs will be recouped if their claim succeeds. In the "Small Claims Court", where proceedings are intended to be informal, costs are not awarded in favour of the successful party.

Appropriate though this may be for debt and consumer cases, it is

Unresolved questions in the NHS

From the Chief Executive of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London

Sir, The future over job losses at Guy's (report, April 26; letters, April 30) has obscured the fact that the issues there confront all London hospitals, not simply NHS trusts.

The health service reforms are being implemented against a background of major unresolved policy questions for healthcare in the capital. There is a long-standing tension between services' responsibility for meeting the health needs of Londoners and their role as national and international centres of excellence for medical research and education.

Primary care is poorly developed in many areas — often those where deprivation is most serious. Services must address the needs of a substantial commuter population and seasonal influxes of tourists. In addition — and critically — inner London's legacy of major teaching hospitals has remained largely unchanged while its population has declined substantially.

It has proved difficult to develop a strategy to address these problems when the management and planning of London's acute services is fragmented across four regions and ten inner-London health districts and the capital's eight post-graduate teaching hospitals remain directly accountable to the Department of Health.

Given this complex background, the roots of a coherent vision for the future are not to be found in knee-jerk reactions to bed closures and staff cuts. What is lacking is hard data, and any semblance of a long-term strategy.

The King's Fund's London Commission has been established to "develop a broad vision of the pattern of acute health services that would make sense for London in the 1990s and in the early years of the next century".

The Commission's first working paper on the health needs of Londoners will be published in the autumn. It and subsequent papers will bring together the most comprehensive body of information on health and healthcare in the capital that we have yet seen. Any reasonable approach to the future requires such a solid basis for strategic decision-making.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. MAXWELL, Chief Executive,
King Edward's Hospital Fund
for London,
14 Palace Court, W2,
May 2.

Wider role for nurses

From Mr Dudley Fishburn, MP for Kensington (Conservative)

Sir, There are not many issues upon which all the players in the National Health Service are agreed. It is a pity, therefore, that the government let a bill slip today (May 3) which let the support of doctors, nurses and patients and both sides of the House of Commons: a bill to allow nurses to write prescriptions for a limited list of medical products.

Nurse-prescribing, which is already accepted practice in Canada and the United States, has many advantages. It costs nothing. It reduces the queue at the doctor's surgery. It provides help to the patient — especially the infirm, the handicapped and the terminally ill — at home, on a visit from the community nurse. (At the moment a

patient who is, say, incontinent cannot get so much as a bedpan on the health service without a doctor's signature. What bureaucracy!) We should allow nurses — especially the 29,000 most highly-trained visiting nurses — more responsibility, which they want and are fully capable of handling.

Three separate official reports have supported the idea. My bill would have provided the mere handful of words needed to amend two existing acts. This would have allowed nurses to prescribe not only heavy-duty drugs but the simple necessities from bandages to painkillers. One day nurse-prescribing will come to Britain. What a shame that this was not the day.

Yours faithfully,
DUDLEY FISHBURN,
House of Commons, SW1,
May 3.

From Dr J. Hampson

Sir, As one of the "grand consultants" cited in your leader and incidentally one who retired today after 43 years in the NHS, I agree "that the government's NHS reforms aim to use the market as a means to measure efficiency and direct funds". But not all health services are marketable commodities, at least not all to the same degree, and not all will survive in a competitive environment.

If a general practitioner contracts with a particular hospital for medical and surgical services, then his/her patient will perform so to that hospital, however inconvenient.

Some hospitals will undoubtedly flourish; others will undoubtedly deteriorate — a two-tier system and indirectly discriminating between rich and poor. The poor will have no choice.

Yours faithfully,
JOE HAMPSON,
4 The Green, Brompton,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire,
April 29.

From the Director of the Patients Association

Sir, Among the leading doctors, nurses and managers invited to the Chequers "summit" by Mr Major last weekend to discuss future plans for the NHS no patients' organisations were included.

This seems to give the lie to the often-repeated assertion by this government that the consumer is king.

Yours faithfully,
LINDA LAMONT, Director,
The Patients Association,
18 Victoria Park Square,
Bethnal Green, E2,
April 29.

The British way

From Mr M. J. Platts

Sir, Vos "Comment" in *Business News* (April 30) that "the British way has produced by far the most powerful, successful and dynamic accountancy profession in Europe". One observes that the German way has produced by far the most powerful, successful and dynamic manufacturing industry in Europe.

John Major recently commented that there were apparently some 120,000 accountants in Britain compared to about 7,000 in Germany. At the same time the turnover of a manufacturing industry sector in Germany is typically four to five times that of its British counterpart. You conclude that "British industry gains from the expert advice of accountants". What "gains", precisely?

Yours faithfully,
J. M. PLATTS,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Engineering,
Mill Lane, Cambridge.

Car accident rates

From Mr John Barber

Sir, The transport department statistics on car accidents by model announced by Kevin Eason (April 26) may be misleading.

Although cars registered by companies have, we understand, been excluded there may still be significant differences in the mileages driven by private owners of, say, Ford or Vauxhall compared with Volkswagen or Volvo cars by reason of differing usage, particularly the amount of business use by individual owners.

This kind of analysis may prove to be a useful contribution to safety but it needs to take account of average mileages by model to be a true guide to purchasers and fair to the manufacturers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BARBER (Director),
Economists Advisory Group,
38 Spring Street, W2,
April 30.

How is the unrepresented claimant expected to know of the obligations of insurers imposed by the Road Traffic Act, or in the case of the uninsured motorist, of the existence and requirements of the Motor Insurers Bureau?

Accident victims should not be penalised, either by facing the prospect of further financial injury on being deprived of their legal costs in successful claims for compensation, or alternatively facing the additional hardship and struggle of conducting such claims after an accident without the benefit of legal representation.

Yours faithfully,
B. V. ROWE (Chairman),
Motor Accident Solicitors Society,
Bridge House,
48-52 Baldwin Street,
Bristol, Avon,
April 25.

Scotland's place in banking issues

From Mr Angus Grossart

Sir, It is a matter of serious regret that, yet again, a major UK initiative taken by the Bank of England has been entirely structured from within the City of London. All 11 members, the chairman, the secretariat and the seconded support of the committee formed to identify areas of legal uncertainty in financial markets, are to be drawn from London (report, *Business and Finance*, April 29).

The issues which the committee will consider and their recommendations will affect the whole of the UK, including the very large financial sector in Scotland. This sector operates through many of the markets in London and is regulated by bodies based in London; equally, it contributes handsomely to the expense of the UK financial structure. Is it not therefore equitable that we should be able to participate in a matter which so clearly bears on our interests?

In recent years the Scottish financial sector has held different views on certain issues and been less affected by short-term financial fashion than London, and its experience has also been distinctive. A Scottish perspective might have added to the total strength of the committee.

Scotland has often been criticised in the past, and perhaps correctly, for being too introspective. As the Scottish financial sector has expanded and gained in confidence that criticism has become less and less valid. It is a measure of that change that much of the sector seeks a wider involvement in the UK, albeit from a Scottish base.

It is therefore doubly ironic that the cap of provincialism seems to have been picked up by the Bank of England on this occasion. It looks an uncomfortable fit. This may also be an issue for the attention of the prime minister, when he visits Scotland next week.

Yours faithfully,
ANGUS GROSSART (Chairman),
Noble Grossart Ltd.,
48 Queen Street,
Edinburgh,
April 29.

East Timor status

From Mr Ian Arriens

Sir, I am reluctant to disagree with Carmel Budiardjo (April 29) whose valiant efforts on behalf of the East Timorese I have long admired, but it is not true to say that Australia somehow acquiesced to the Indonesian invasion because of oil interests.

In 1973 and 1974 I was head of the political section at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Although there were rumours of oil off the southern coast of East Timor no discoveries were, to my knowledge, made at that time. In so far as oil was a factor, it worked the other way, enhancing the case for independence for what was otherwise a desperately poor and unstable enclave.

The Australian government made strenuous efforts to dissuade Indonesia from invading. Indonesia's intense preoccupation with internal security — in particular its fear of Chinese influences in Timor, and that Timor would go communist — and the military nature of the regime made this impossible.

Yours sincerely,
IAN ARRIENS,
3 Middlemore Road,
Whitlessford,
Cambridge,
May 2.

Two-year degrees

From Professor P. R. Gamble

Sir, Recently advanced proposals for two-year degree courses have some alarming implications. Our European partners already look askance on three-year degrees and in some professional areas, qualifications of four years or more are the recognised minimum.

British three-year degrees do not qualify graduates to work in many public service enterprises and are often insufficient to provide an entry route to membership of professional bodies in other parts of the EC. Across the Atlantic, a two-year course is usually accredited merely as an associate degree.

Overseas students choosing to pursue their higher education in the UK rightly do so because of the quality of the product. It is difficult to see how either the image or the reality can be maintained if the notion of shorter degree courses is pursued. It will be especially unfortunate if, in addition to the loss of a substantial overseas student market, our own graduates are required to undergo further studies in order to have their qualifications recognised elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL R. GAMBLE,
University of Surrey,
European Management Studies,
Guildford, Surrey.

Cross words

From Mr Henry Galazka

Sir, Yet another example of the Listener Crossword in yesterday's *Saturday Review* convinces me that its concept is flagrantly elitist. I now have an inferiority complex (and my first act of aggression is to write this letter).

Yours faithfully,
HENRY GALAZKA,
5 Kinsland Close,
Bromley, Kent,
April 28.

THE TIMES BUSINESS

TUESDAY MAY 7 1991

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Business Editor
John Bell

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● LAW 26,27
● SPORT 31-36

Concern for Bush depresses US prices

AMERICAN shares and the dollar eased yesterday, amid concern for the health of President George Bush and a nervous reaction to the prospects that vice-president Dan Quayle may take charge, even temporarily.

Foreign exchange dealers and share traders said there had been no market panic and reported light trading, which depressed the Dow Jones industrial average 13.31 points to 2,925.54 early on and the dollar 1/4 of a cent weaker against the pound at \$1.7025.

Market analysts had feared that both markets would plunge when trading opened yesterday morning, after news that Mr Bush had been taken to hospital at the weekend suffering from an irregular heartbeat.

One foreign exchange trader at Merrill Lynch, the broker, however, said: "There's been no panic selling of the dollar this morning. It's a sleeper."

Polly Peck news sent to creditors

The administrators of Polly Peck today post their initial report on the failed electronics and fresh fruit group to bankers, shareholders and trade creditors. The move comes more than five months after the group collapsed with debts of £1.4 billion.

For the 28,000 creditors of Polly Peck, the report will be the first hard news on the chances of recovering any of their money.

A spokesman for Cork Gully, the joint administrator, said the circular would contain "only broad proposals", to be presented for discussion on May 24 at a creditors' meeting at London's Alexandra Palace. The spokesman said the report "laid out the options without going into any great detail". One possibility thought to feature is the refloating of the group's Turkish and Cypriot interests as a new company.

Income dives at BAT associate

BAT Industries' 75 per cent-owned Brazilian associate, Companhia Souza Cruz Indústria e Comércio, said its first-quarter consolidated net income fell 45.8 per cent to 3.9 billion cruzeiros (£8.7 million). Souza Cruz, which has about 82 per cent of Brazil's cigarette market, blamed price controls and losses at an affiliated paper company for the sharp drop.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6930 (-0.0230)
German mark 2.9661 (+0.0077)
Exchange index 91.2 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1979.9 (-7.1)
FT-SE 100 2522.7 (-8.0)
New York Dow Jones 2924.42 (-14.44)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge Closed

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 12%
3-month Interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4
3-month prime bank 11 1/2-11 3/4
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.47-5.48%
30-year bonds 95-95 1/2

CURRENCIES

London New York
£: \$1.6930
£: DM2.9661
£: Sfr2.5048
£: FF10.0251
£: Yen235.08
£: Index51.2
ECU £0.685700
£: ECU1.497400

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$355.451 PM \$355.501
3-month gold futures \$354.501 (\$208.00-208.50)
New York:
Comex \$355.25-355.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 131.4 March (1987-100)

NORTH SEA

Brent (May) \$19.80 bbl
Dutchies (May) \$19.80 bbl
Dutchies (May) \$19.80 bbl
Dutchies (May) \$19.80 bbl

Singapore government to buy Mount Charlotte stake

By MARTIN WALLER

BRIERLEY Investments Limited (BIL), the New Zealand group founded by Sir Ron Brierley, is selling a 30 per cent stake in Mount Charlotte Investments, the British hotel group it acquired almost by default last year, to the twin investment arms of the Singapore government.

The sale is part of a complex set of deals announced by BIL at an extraordinary shareholders' meeting yesterday in Wellington, New Zealand, aimed at cutting the group's heavy borrowings.

The effect of the sale of the Mount Charlotte shares and the decision by the Singapore government, already a business associate of BIL, to take a 4.7 per cent stake

in the group will reduce borrowings by the equivalent of £270 million.

The sale also resolves a problem Brierley Investments created for itself when its \$644 million cash bid for Mount Charlotte succeeded, against both sides' better wishes, last year.

The Brierley camp at that time conceded that the 73p a share on offer was inadequate. The group was forced to make the offer under takeover rules when it was offered the Kuwait Investment Office's 10 per cent holding in Mount Charlotte to add to its 29.9 per cent stake.

The offer was fiercely resisted by the British group but was accepted by sufficient British institutions to push the New

Zealand holding over the 50 per cent mark. Bruce Hancock, chairman of BIL, told shareholders yesterday that the purchase of the Kuwait Investment Office's stake was a once in a lifetime opportunity and "one of the most significant investment prospects available to us in the last decade".

The ideal outcome would have been for the group to end up with 51 per cent, and the purchase brought with it further heavy debts.

Brierley Investments has agreed to sell the Singaporean government 267.5 million Mount Charlotte shares for £227.5 million, or 85p a share, giving a paper profit before interest costs of almost £32 million on those shares. The two Singaporean invest-

ment operations will also take new equity in BIL to give them 4.7 per cent for the equivalent of £44 million, with the intention of increasing this stake to 10 per cent in due course.

On completion, total debts at Brierley Investments will reduce from NZ\$6.6 million (£2.3 billion), at end-December to \$4 billion at end-June, while gearing will fall from 125 per cent to 70 per cent.

Mr Hancock said: "Given the nature of our investments, this is quite prudent and conservative."

Brierley Investments shares rose 10 cents to NZ\$1.20 in afternoon trading on the Wellington stock exchange as analysts took the view that the debt reduction

secured the company's financial position. The new shares will be issued at NZ\$1.05.

Paul Collins, BIL's chief executive, said later that the group expects to go on the acquisition trail with its new Singaporean shareholders and is targeting Australia in the medium term.

"There are a certain number of new investments we'll want to look at over the next six to 12 months," Mr Collins said.

"We'd probably like, for example, in the short-medium term to have a higher exposure to the Australian marketplace." He said that Brierley Investments had monitored the Fairfax newspaper group receivership and the debt problems of Adelaide Steamship Co.

Builders fear recession is growing worse

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIGNS of improvement in the economy and greater business confidence are rejected in the latest state of trade enquiry by the building industry, which is continuing its slide into deep recession with few signs of improvement.

Last week, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said economic recovery in Britain was just around the corner, and forecast that the economy would begin to improve in the second half of the year. Al-

though his optimism has been supported by a range of business surveys, including those from the Confederation of British Industry last week and the Institute of Directors today, the spring state of trade survey by the Building Employers Confederation, also published today, is much more gloomy.

Three-quarters of the companies questioned by the BEC, whose 9,500 members carry out more than 75 per cent of all private building industry output, report a fall in their activity level during the first

quarter when compared with the last three months of 1990. The balance, those with more work against those with less, of output is -70 per cent, the ninth successive quarterly fall and the lowest figure on record for the BEC.

Such falling workloads mean spare capacity in the industry is continuing to rise, with almost one-fifth of Britain's construction companies now working at less than half capacity.

According to the survey, which covers 600 firms every quarter, the picture is very rapidly becoming worse. The survey found that 74 per cent expected their workload to fall further during the next 12 months. The majority of leading contractors said they have, at most, only nine months' work in hand. Smaller companies typically had less than three months' work on their books.

In the light of the findings, David Woods, the BEC's chairman, reiterated his warning that 100,000 jobs are likely to be lost from the construction industry this year. He said: "The construction industry is still in the grip of its worst recession since 1980-1981."

The only cause for optimism revealed by the survey was a modest upturn in enquiries to housebuilders in the South, the Midlands and Yorkshire. However, house-building enquiries in Scotland and the North registered a sharp decline.

Mr Woods said: "Any real recovery in the housing market still seems a long way off and will depend crucially on further cuts in interest rates and mortgage rates and on an improvement in buyers' confidence."

He added that orders from the commercial and industrial sectors were falling.



Woods: jobs warning

Boddington under Cannon fire

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE battle of the breweries heated up at the weekend with the release of a defence document from J A Devenish, the West Country group under £120 million siege from Boddington.

Michael Cannon, the chairman of Devenish, attacks Boddington's diversification policy, into such areas as nursing homes, hotels and food, for tying up about £100 million of capital and generating mostly "meagre returns".

Devenish claims merger talks between the two companies were scrapped a year ago by the inability of both parties to agree on a combined strategy, and on Boddington's diversification plans.

The bidder has said it plans to sell Devenish's loss-making Redruth brewery in Cornwall if the offer is successful. Mr Cannon tells investors that an announcement on the future of the brewery will be made over the next three weeks.

Boddington has already attacked its target's record, accusing it of wasting millions of pounds of shareholders' money.

Mr Cannon is advising Boddington's shareholders to attend the company's extraordinary meeting this Friday and question the board on its strategy and diversification programme.

Investors in East disappoint

By OUR CITY STAFF

INTEREST in Eastern Europe is high but actual investment so far is low, says the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The bank's maiden study spells out in daunting detail the size of the task in Eastern Europe. Investors have so far committed less than £1.5 billion to the region, although many big companies in

Europe, North America and Japan are exploring opportunities there.

The bank says: "Despite this flurry of activity, the actual levels of investment remain low." Of a total of 7,000 foreign investment registrations, fewer than 30 per cent, or around 2,000, were actually operational or even at a nascent stage. Many planned investments are small, more

than half those planned totalling less than \$2 million apiece. Only a handful are worth more than \$1 billion, says the bank.

The geographical spread is also uneven, with virtually all investment going to the USSR, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. Less than 5 per cent is earmarked for Romania and Bulgaria.



Defence of the Devenish realm: Michael and Sally Cannon, outside their first London public house

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AT&T wins NCR in \$7.4bn deal

From PHILIP ROBINSON in NEW YORK

AMERICAN Telephone & Telegraph has won its often acrimonious six-month takeover battle for NCR in a deal that values America's fifth largest computer maker at \$7.4 billion.

The takeover is the country's biggest since Time and Warner, the entertainment groups, joined in a \$14 billion merger almost two years ago.

AT&T, the largest long-distance telephone carrier in the world, which has direct links to the inventor Alexander Graham Bell, will pay for the deal with its own shares.

NCR shareholders will exchange each of their shares for a maximum of 3.223 and a minimum of 2.708 AT&T shares. The formula is designed to take account of fluctuations in the AT&T price and to guarantee NCR holders \$110 per share. AT&T shares added 25 cents to \$36.875 yesterday.

NCR shares were changing hands at \$48 each before the takeover talks and trading was halted at \$104 in New York yesterday. At one stage, Charles Exley, NCR's \$1.1 million a year chairman, had

wanted \$125 a share before agreeing to peace talks, and threatened to resign if the bid succeeded.

But AT&T rallied enough support from shareholders to oust Mr Exley and three colleagues at NCR's annual meeting at the end of March.

The bid by the \$30 billion AT&T company is a key component of its European strategy to expand its internal small and miling computer business into a global network capable of linking people, organisations and their information.

NCR is the ninth-largest computer maker in Europe, which accounted for a third of the company's \$5.9 billion sales last year and almost 30 per cent of its operating income. Analysts say that it would take much more than \$7 billion to gain the kind of foothold that NCR provides.

NCR started selling cash registers in Liverpool in 1885 and now employs 1,300 people making automated bank teller machines at one of its largest European factories in Kingsway West,

Dundee, in Scotland. It is building more engineering and manufacturing plants at Dunfermline and employs 3,500 people throughout Europe.

Robert Allen, AT&T chairman, said: "I'm very pleased agreement has now been reached. The company that will emerge will be uniquely equipped to meet what customers will need in the future - global computer networks as easy to use and as accessible as the telephone network is today. The joining of these two companies will create a powerful competitor in the market place for information systems."

But not all AT&T's adventures into computers have been successful. Its initial link with Italy's Olivetti in 1983 produced a line of personal computers for the American market that was criticised on price and performance. AT&T had considered leaving the computer business altogether in recent years, but decided the potential benefits of being able to provide integrated communication and computing systems were too great to abandon.

1000

BASF falls 25% in first quarter

With the local elections over and the battles of the Group of Seven fading into history, along with the military exploits of the United States Army Seventh Corps, it is time to return to economic reality. Is Norman Lamont right when he claims that the recovery is finally "around the corner"?

The Chancellor has rightly stressed that the first signs of recovery would appear in the indicators of expectations, not in historic figures on output, consumption or jobs. On this basis, some celebration was certainly in order last week. The Confederation of British Industry quarterly survey offered the first solid evidence that business confidence is on the way up. The size of the jump in the confidence index, from -57 to -17, and its confirmation by similar improvements in the expectations of output and orders, was too impressive to be dismissed as a statistical blip. On Friday, the government's own index of longer leading indicators provided further support, with its third consecutive monthly rise.

It seems, therefore, that a

Travelling hopefully to the dawn

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

recovery is indeed on the way. But this was never in doubt, except perhaps among the die-hard monetarists who have been prophesying a Thirties-style depression, essentially on the grounds that people have got fed up with over-sized coins jangling in their pockets and turned to credit cards and cheques instead. The question for businessmen, politicians and economists of a more practical bent has never been whether the recession would end, but when this would happen and how far the economy would fall in the meantime. On these points, unfortunately, there is less reason for celebration.

In the past 30 years, the lag between a rise in the CBI confidence index and a turnaround in GDP has averaged 1.8 quarters and varied between one and three quarters. If this pattern were repeated in the present cycle, growth would not return to the economy until the third quarter at the earliest. More probably,

the recovery would begin in the fourth quarter, say around October, and it could quite easily be delayed until the first quarter of 1992. The government's leading indicators tell an entirely consistent story. The longer leading index, which usually indicates a turning point in the economy about a year in advance, started to move decisively upwards last November — pointing to a recovery beginning in autumn.

Turning to the economy's fate in the meantime, these auguries are far from encouraging. Virtually all recent economic forecasts have assumed that output would start recovering slightly in the second quarter and would be growing quite substantially by

the summer months. This also seemed implicit in the Chancellor's Budget forecast of a mid-year recovery. But recently there has been a subtle change.

Mr Lamont now refers to a recovery starting in the second half of the year, which could mean any time before December 31. The potentially dire implications of such a postponement have not yet been drawn. A delay in the recovery until the fourth quarter would create a much deeper recession than most economists seem to be expecting at present.

Consider, for example, two of the most pessimistic private forecasts produced in the last few weeks. The ITEM Club, a group of econometricians with access to

the Treasury's own model, predicted three weeks ago that real GDP would grow at an annual rate of 1 per cent between the first and second quarter and accelerate to an annualised 3.9 per cent in the summer months. Oxford Economic Forecasting, in its latest review published last Tuesday, showed the economy virtually flat in the current quarter, but growing in the summer at an annual rate of 2.3 per cent.

Significantly, these two groups are forecasting a GDP decline of about 1 1/4 per cent for 1991 as a whole, which is very close to the Treasury's own 1.9 per cent prediction and gloomier than the City consensus of 1.5 per cent.

Now consider what would happen to these forecasts if the economy just crawled along the bottom from April to September and did not begin to grow until the autumn. ITEM's forecast of a 1.7 per cent GDP decline this year would turn into a breathtaking drop of 2.5 per cent.

Oxford would show the economy shrinking by 2.3 per cent against the 1.8 per cent expected now and the 2 per cent drop in 1980, the worst year of recession since the second world war.

More significantly, consumer spending actually rose by 0.1 per cent annually throughout the 1980-1 recession. This year, the official Treasury forecast assumes a fall of 1.7 per cent in consumer spending. Economists have ridiculed this figure as impossibly pessimistic, for the simple reason that consumption has never fallen that much in post-war history. But if the recession continues until the fourth quarter, the Treasury could actually prove over-optimistic.

For the consumer — and voter — the implication is simple. This will probably be the worst year of recession on record. But, as everybody knows, the darkest hour is just before the dawn — a cliché that may become a Treasury favourite in the next few months. The trouble is this "darkest hour" may not be seen until the autumn.

Anyone for an election in October?

Blueprint for a sell-off that brings power to the people

PUBLICATION of the pathfinder prospectus for the two Scottish electricity companies tomorrow presages a sale that many thought would never happen.

Political uncertainties — not least about the timing of the next election, hostility to privatisation in Scotland, and the problems faced by the government in selling the English and Welsh industry — were formidable obstacles.

Popular doubts aside, the Scottish power companies always looked the most attractive to investors. The run-up to privatisation has served to reinforce that view.

In contrast to the artificial division between generation and supply imposed by the government south of the border, the structure of the power industry in Scotland largely replicates the pattern that has evolved elsewhere in the world.

ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro-Electric are responsible for generation, transmission and supply throughout their areas. This "vertical integration" should make their businesses better balanced and will also facilitate an assessment of the trade-off between investment in generating plant and encouraging consumers to use power more efficiently.

In practice, that judgment will not be necessary for years. Thanks to excess construction in the past, and a decline in heavy industry, Scots require little more than 60 per cent of their country's 10,000 megawatts of capacity, even on the coldest winter day.

There is irony here. Impressive operating efficiencies mean much of the power generated in Scotland is cheaper than that produced in similar power stations elsewhere. Yet the interconnector, a link with the transmission system in England and Wales, can carry only 850 megawatts. A first priority, already being addressed, is to upgrade interconnector capacity to 1,600 megawatts to enable exports to be increased.

Both Scottish companies are already net power exporters, but it is not easy to be sure which plants that power will come from. To underpin the three Scottish nuclear power



Light engineers: Sir Donald, right, with Ian Preston, ScottishPower chief executive

stations, which remain within state-owned Scottish Nuclear, the government has put in place a complex web of power purchase contracts.

ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro-Electric will be obliged to buy nuclear power for their base load supply. Hydro will also have to buy power from ScottishPower's coal-fired plants, in exchange for electricity from some of its own water-powered turbines.

The output of Peterhead power station, which is being

converted to run on cheap supplies of sour gas from the Miller field in the North Sea, will also be divided between them. The net effect will be to stabilise the companies' power costs, and reduce the benefit to Hydro of generating some electricity from water-powered turbines that have long since paid for themselves.

'Power generated in Scotland is cheaper than that produced in similar power stations elsewhere'

Making and selling electricity is destined to become a cyclical business, but in the

year to March last year were £435 million. Pre-tax profit was £50.1 million.

ScottishPower serves a more concentrated population in the central lowlands, and dispersed communities in the Borders. The company has 1.72 million customers and in the same year made profits of £130 million on sales of £1.13 billion.

Government advisers will delay putting a price on the

companies for as long as they can. Present market estimates suggest that Hydro could fetch £750 million to £850 million, and ScottishPower £1.5 billion to £1.7 billion.

The most interesting passages in the pathfinder prospectus for many investors will be those devoted to diversification plans and environmental obligations.

Hydro is already involved in two sizeable projects to construct high efficiency combined-cycle gas-fired power stations on the east coast of England. Sir Donald Miller, the chairman, says ScottishPower is studying proposals for two similar, but smaller stations that would have London Underground as their base load customer.

These projects could give profits a lift from the mid-Nineties, when the inevitable post-privatisation cost-cutting drives run out of steam.

If ScottishPower is obliged to spend £300 million or more, however, to stem emissions from Longannet power station, which contribute to acid rain, investors will expect its price to be adjusted accordingly.

ROSS TITMAN
Industrial Correspondent

'Feelgood factor' is lacking

GILT-LEDGED

In spite of last week's poor local election results for the government, gilts still look attractive on a long-term basis with ten-year yields below 9 1/2 per cent quite likely after the next general election. The reasons are quite straightforward. Bond yields in continental Europe should fall as the German economy slows and its short-term interest rates are cut.

The difference between British and German headline inflation will continue to fall, enabling the bond yield spread to narrow. This favourable background is broadly accepted, so why is it not already in the price of gilts?

There are three worries holding back gilts. First, there are lingering doubts about British inflation. Second, after a number of years of budget surpluses, the reality of regular dollops of supply is keeping the bulls wary. Third, and most important at the moment, is politics.

The problem of political risk is easiest to analyse by dividing it into pre-general election risk and post-general election risk. Before the election, sentiment in the gilt market will waver with the opinion polls. The bottom line

for most gilt players is probably that they expect a Tory victory. Even though the gilt market may be held back by electoral uncertainties before the election, it is still in for a shock if Labour wins.

Before the election, the problem for the government and the gilt market is that the so-called economic "feelgood factors" will never be as good as at the time of the past two elections.

The 1983 and 1987 elections were held in the ninth and 12th consecutive quarters of economic growth. An election this autumn would only be in the first or second quarter of recovery.

Consequently, the unemployment rise will be much steeper than in the run-up to the past two elections, even if the headline total is lower. Base rates will probably be above the 10 per cent of 1983, let alone 1987's 9 per cent.

Unless the government hangs on into next year, there will be no pre-election tax cuts to compare with the handouts of 1983 and 1987. Although inflation is falling and business and consumer confidence

are recovering, it will be difficult for the Conservatives to establish a commanding enough opinion poll lead before the election to set gilts off on a politically inspired bull run.

After the election, gilt prices should rise if the Tories win. What if Labour wins? The initial impact will be bad. Analysts will suggest that sterling's commitment to current European Monetary System parties is in doubt. They will insist that the public sector borrowing requirement will spiral out of control, noting that Labour will finance its budget deficits with gilt issuance rather than asset sales. They will worry about inflation and Labour's probable lack of a stable or working majority.

This is post-election political risk and it is unlikely to be fully discounted before the election. As the market comes off, however, the political risk premium will almost certainly be bid up too high — it will be a great time to buy gilts.

After a general election victory, Labour may take a little while to establish its

credentials with the gilt market. John Smith is more likely to be boring and orthodox, like Pierre Bérégovoy, the French socialist finance minister, than dashing and radical, like Nigel Lawson. Mr Smith was advocating exchange-rate mechanism entry long before it became government policy.

He will not want to damage the downward path of interest rates by calling current ERM parties into question or be softer on inflation than the Conservatives. A change in government may not mean much change in macroeconomic management now the government has abandoned Thatcherism and returned to the centre ground. So politics is a temporary diversion. Long-term fundamentals, driven by ERM disciplines, are good for gilts, whoever wins.

Political risk may be the dominant theme of the next few months but it will be a transient phenomenon. It is essential to distinguish the long-term trend from short-term fluctuations around it. For the longer-term investor, yields remain attractive.

DOUG JONES
Chief economist,
Crown Agents Asset
Management

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Satisfaction, but no sun

NOT many Swedish sun-lovers willingly swap Southern California for a job in the City, but such was the choice of Karin Forske, formerly of Pru-Bache in Los Angeles, who came to London in 1989 as business development director of OM London, the Stockholm-linked futures and options exchange. On Friday, she led the launch of GEMs, the first index option on the German stock market. "It was clearly the one product people were lacking," says Ms Forske, aged 36, who presented a stock market TV programme in Los Angeles. "I was asked to come over by OM in Stockholm, and it's not an offer that lands on your desk every week." More than 4,000 contracts were traded on the first day.

Ryder rides out

SEASONED City watchers will be interested to learn that Neil Ryder, the director of corporate affairs at BET, the

diversified services group, has left the company to start his own investor relations consultancy. And those of them with keen memories may recollect the events of February 1, this year, when the BET share price halved to 65p before rallying to close at 100p. Nearly four hours after the first drop — and following repeated calls to the BET offices — the company finally put out a statement saying that it was "not aware of any justification for such a fall". Ryder is the author of *Investor Relations — How to Make Sure the Financial Community Supports Your Company*.

Surveying rugby

WHAT is it about chartered surveyors that turns them into rugby players? Andy Irvine, the former Scotland and British Lion full back, is in the Edinburgh office of Jones Lang Wootton, while Gavin Hastings, the Scottish full back, is with Richard Ellis. Huw Davies — an English stand-off half in spite of his name — graces Dron and

Wright, while Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks can boast Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, and Marcus Rose, who pulled on an England shirt at full back. In fact, three of the England grand slam side this season are chartered surveyors. "Perhaps it is the traditionally male environment of the surveying profession," a spokeswoman for JLV says. "They go in for cricket as well."

Yellow card

BARCLAYS Registrars scored an own goal last week when it sent out share certificates on behalf of Clearmark Group, best known for "Wembley" toy footballs, after a capital reorganisation. Unfortunately, Barclays got its sums wrong and shareholders received four times as many shares as they were entitled to. A letter was despatched, blaming a "processing error" for the slip-up, and warning shareholders to destroy their pink certificates. They were urged to use a new yellow certificate showing the correct number — the yellow card, so to speak.

Family business

DARRYL Phillips, the South African businessman who stepped down last week from Acis, the media marketing group, has a busy time ahead. Most of it will be spent jetting between London and Johannesburg, his home until he left South Africa five years ago. "Family engagements will keep me busy," says Mr Phillips, aged 47, who celebrates his 25th wedding anniversary in June. He will be in Johannesburg in July for his mother-in-law's 70th birthday, and is due back in Africa in August and October for the weddings of his daughters, Gabby, aged 23, and Gina-Lee, aged 21.

A CANADIAN firm is marketing a device to be installed in houses for sale that transmits a message describing the property's main attractions. Passing motorists can hear it on their car radios up to 150 yards away. So far, 2,500 of the "talking house" devices are in place in Toronto alone.

JON ASHWORTH

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75.1m	Presidio
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354,000 Goodland
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[illegible]

**84.5m Aired Lon
100,000 Auction**

54.5m Allied Lon	98	+1	4.7	5
7,898,000 Arcadian	86	-1	1.1	1
57.2m Asda	108	-5	2.5	2
19.8m BSN Group	46	+1	1.5	2
7,774,000 Cadbur Harris	91	-1	5.7	4

11.1m Debenhams
20.3m Debenhams T
1,340,000 De Morgan

11.1m	De Morgan	120	+2	10.8
10.2m	De Morgan	120	+2	10.8
1.540.000	De Morgan	120	+2	10.8

470.5m Gr Portland
281.5m Greycont

470.5m Gr Portland	202.5	-3	12.5
261.5m Greycoat	202.1	-17	8.8

4,121,000 Lon & Mater
13.9m Lon Budget
1,071.9m MEPC

4,121,000 Lon & Metro	74	+34	.. 8
13.9m Lon Securities	11	-2	21.5
1,071.9m MEPC	018	-5	21.5

30.0m Flagellon
22.0m Rowing
21.2m Rowing

30.0m	Regatta	98	-1	1.5
32.0m	Row-through	94	+2	1.1
31.2m	Row-through	170	..	1.8

100.0m	Werner
98.0m	Wernford
96.0m	Wernfong

100.00	Werner	225	6	12.1
98.50	Wernford	237	..	8.9
..	Wernst	2.71

48.0m Strong & Fast
93.2m Soyle

49.0m Strong & Fisher	27	-2	12.0	4
93.2m Sg40	275			

225.7m	Dewson
254,000	Diamond
5,600,000	Foster (John)

288.7m Dawson	188	-5	12.0	7
3,354,000 Drummond	31	+8	1.8	5
5,600,000 Foster (John)	48	+2	1.8	5

247 Am Tooth
3,519,000 West Trust

247 Am Total	85	48	8.6	7
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403.5m Assoc Br Por

493.5m Astroc Br Ports	200	0 +12	9.7	3
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71.1m Alameda &
112.2m Murray Dock
691.8m NEC

70.8m	Manchester Ship	2174	+14	6.8
112.2m	Mersey Dock	187	-5	6.7
891.2m	NEC	162	+2	6.7

100

347 Ann
620 Gen
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347.8m	Western Water	339	-18	21.3
620.0m	Yorkshire Water	315	+7	23.6
—	Parkcare Ltd	25265	+250	..

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Divided right to parenthood

Bearing children and founding a family have separate rules. Elizabeth Roberts argues that the law on infertility treatment is too vague and doctors too powerful

LEGAL BRIEF

Should society respect the right of all women to bear children? Or is the right to a child less important than the rights of the child-to-be? The recent controversy surrounding "virgin births" raises the important question of whether access to reproductive technologies ought to be regulated.

The European Convention on Human Rights states that member countries must uphold the right of men and women "to marry and to found a family". However, this itself may create problems. To begin with, it seems odd to speak of a "right" to something that no law or government can provide. Marriage is rather different as it is a legal status that society may confer on, or deny to, couples, but founding a family is ultimately, even with technological help, a question of biology.

When couples attempt to found families by natural means, the state does virtually nothing to interfere, but nor does it do anything to help, for example, in the search for the perfect mate. For those who need infertility treatment, help is, of course, essential and the lack of public financial assistance is a big problem.

There are only two NHS "designated centres", fully funded to provide infertility services. The long waiting lists force many people to seek costly private care. Does the "right to found a family" put a corresponding obligation on the state to fund techniques to give infertile people the chance to found families?

Another problem for the infertile is that some would-be parents are rejected as "unsuitable". Although there are centres that will give donor insemination to single women and lesbian couples, many agencies limit access to married couples or those in stable heterosexual relationships.

Even clinics that say their selection of patients is "non-judgmental" agree that some prospective patients should be turned away. None would be likely to treat a woman with a history of child abuse, or one with a serious psychiatric disorder, if only because it would seem cruel to inseminate a woman whose child would then be taken away at birth. English law tolerates and even supports some of these obstacles to the use of reproductive technologies. In the only case to have come before the courts, a woman had been turned down for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment because she had convictions for prostitution-related offences. She challenged the consultant's decision. The court's ruling was that, unless the doctor had applied his discretion in a manner in which no reasonable consultant would have done, his decision to reject the woman could stand.

The new Human Fertilisation

and Embryology Act requires screening of a sort, stating that a woman "shall not be provided with treatment services unless account has been taken of the welfare of any child who may be born as a result of the treatment (including the need of that child for a father)..."

What does this mean? The Statutory Licensing Authority will be giving guidance to doctors, but it seems that they will retain much discretion. The act adds that persons may refuse to take part in any activity governed by it if they have a conscientious objection to doing so.

I almost all other medical practice, doctors and the NHS are obliged to provide all patients with a satisfactory level of care. It is not for the doctor to worry that the hands he bandages may go on to forge cheques or pick locks. What is the difference here?

Most IVF recipients have some medical problem. However, the treatment is costly and has to compete for the limited public funds allocated for medical care. Here, there is no hierarchy of medical need that may help to determine which cases are treated first. All childless people are

equally unfortunate. We are left with a choice, either to select those to be treated by lot, or to use the adoption model, in which agencies are permitted and indeed expected to choose parents on the basis of aptitude.

Critics might argue that we refrain from screening fertile couples only because this would be virtually impossible. However, one can also argue that if infertility makes it necessary for others to assist in conception - physically and financially - then it may be reasonable to expect them to be concerned about the results of their acts.

Society expresses its concern by obliging the doctor to do what virtually everybody would see as the duty of any partner in conception: to have regard for the welfare of the child-to-be. Most would accept that the presence or absence of a father should at least be a factor in assessing that welfare.

explaining their own "ground rules" to families, general practitioners and prospective patients.

Could society limit the doctor's discretion further? It would seem wrong for the law to demand that a doctor disregard his or her moral scruples and give infertility treatment to all those whom society would consider acceptable parents. If the doctor's practices seem too lenient, the Statutory Licensing Authority will have power to remove his or her licence to provide infertility treatment. Beyond that, the law is a blunt instrument. A statute could ban doctors from treating certain groups, but such precision is open to abuse. Fathers "of convenience" might spring up - and then disappear afterwards.

Enforcement might also be difficult, especially given the less safe, but reasonably simple and still lawful option of self-insemination. Moreover, the cases in which most people would want state intervention would be the hardest to define: those in which the applicants would make deplorable parents.

We may be left with little alternative to the present system in which every practice frames its own rules of access, backed by the two basic legal rules, which, first, allow the doctor the exercise of conscience, and, secondly, oblige that conscience to be used, to ensure that treatment is given only after some consideration of the welfare of the child-to-be.

© The author is a law lecturer at Bristol University.



Court of Appeal

Law Report May 7 1991

Queen's Bench Division

Statutory bar does not apply

Operation of immigration appeals

In re Land and Property Trust Co plc and Others
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Nicholls
[Judgment May 2]

The statutory bar provided by section 18(1)(g) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 prohibiting an appeal from an order relating only to costs, save with the leave of the court or tribunal in question, did not apply where the order for costs had been made against a person who was not a party to the proceedings.

Such an order was so exceptional that Parliament could not have intended that a person against whom it had been made should be left without a right of appeal. There was accordingly in such a case a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal, without any requirement as to leave.

Section 18(1)(g) was to be understood and taken as applying only to orders for costs made against persons who were parties to the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held on the application of the directors of Land and Property Trust Co plc and 10 subsidiary companies who sought to appeal from orders of Mr Justice Harman that they personally pay the costs incurred by certain creditors of the company, including John Lellion Management Ltd, in opposing petitions for administration orders presented by the companies under

the Insolvency Act 1986. The judge had refused leave to appeal against his orders.

Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr Guy Newey for the directors; Mr Adrian Francis for John Lellion

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that the question was one of jurisdiction, namely whether having regard to section 18(1)(g) the directors had any right or means of appeal.

The statutory source of the jurisdiction exercised by the judge in making the orders was section 51(1) of the 1981 Act. The section was the source of the court's power to order one or other party to an action or other proceedings to pay the other side's costs.

Thus far there was no difficulty. In all such cases section 18(1)(g) applied. But section 51(1) had a wider embrace. His Lordship referred to *Aiden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk Ltd* [1986] AC 965 where the House of Lords had held that its application was not confined to parties to the relevant proceedings.

Undoubtedly the judge had jurisdiction under section 51(1) to make the orders against the directors although they were not parties to the petitions. Clearly, and as he had in mind, the circumstances in which a costs order was justified against a non-party would be exceptional.

The making of a costs order against a non-party was so unusual and far-reaching a departure from the normal course of events to be expected in litigation that his Lordship could not believe that Parliament had the present type of case in mind at all when it enacted section 18(1)(g) or its predecessor.

It would be remarkable if a "stranger" could be ordered to pay costs and have no right of appeal unless the judge who made the order gave leave. Parliament could not have intended that such a person was to have no right of appeal at all whatever the circumstances and however severe or draconian the effect of the order might be.

Section 18(1)(g) was to be understood and taken as applying only to orders for costs made against persons who were parties.

Costs orders against non-parties were not "relating to costs only" so as to be within that paragraph. Such an order related to matters other than the outcome of the proceedings. It had to be concerned with more, for example the conduct of the non-party, to justify it.

Two factors encouraged his Lordship in this view.

First, although section 18(1)(g) and section 51(1) and their predecessors had been on the statute book for a long time, it was only recently that the

House of Lords clarified the full scope of section 51(1) in the *Aiden Shipping* case.

Second, it was already established that the bar created by section 18(1)(g) was not without exceptions, or apparent exceptions, see *Schering v Countydown Investments Ltd* [1986] 1 WLR 615. The propositions there set out by Lord Justice Buckley had, subject to two modifications which were immaterial for present purposes, been approved by the House of Lords in *Bank America v Nock* [1988] AC 1002.

Accordingly the directors had a right of appeal which was not barred by section 18(1)(g). The Master of the Rolls

Solicitors: Kanter Jules Grangevood; Masons.

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Panchan and Others
Before Mr Justice Popplewell
[Judgment April 30]

The restrictions on the right to appeal introduced by section 5 of the Immigration Act 1988 did not have retrospective effect when applied to persons who had received their notice of deportation or had been in breach of their conditions of leave to enter before the Act had come into force since the section did not come into operation and the right of appeal was not affected until the deportee had lodged his appeal.

Mr Justice Popplewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing the applicants, Leyla Panchan, Eugenio Maner, Winnie Mundova, Florence

Awujo, Lawrence Kpakpe, Okeke Eze Eke and Anna Ampah-Baiden, judicial review of the refusal of the Home Secretary to hear their appeals against their notices of deportation.

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the applicants; Mr Robert Jay for the Home Secretary. MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that section 5 deprived a deportee of the right of appeal under section 15 of the Immigration Act 1971 where the grounds for deportation were for breaching limited leave or belonging to the family of a person in breach of limited leave.

Three separate acts had to occur before the section came into operation: (i) the person must have broken his limited leave condition; (ii) the secretary of state must have made a

decision to deport, there was no automatic ruling of a decision to deport (and both those acts were unaffected by the 1988 Act); (iii) once (i) and (ii) had occurred the final thing which brought section 5 into play was the exercise of the right of appeal.

Section 5(2) gave the Home Secretary power by exemption orders to exempt particular classes of those affected by section 5(1).

The applicants asserted that because the events which gave rise to their deportation had occurred before the Act came into force they were being deprived of the right of appeal under the 1971 Act.

But the fact that they had overstayed before the Act came into force was irrelevant to the question of whether the statute was retrospective. It was well

established that where there was a vested right the courts would not allow an Act except with express wording to abrogate that right but here there was no such vested right.

The applicants had simply overstayed their leave and the section had no effect until they attempted to appeal.

In addition, his Lordship did not accept that the statute was not procedural. There was no substantive right granted in the Act and nothing to show that it was not procedural in which case the presumption against its having retrospective effect did not apply.

Solicitors: Jane Collier & Co, Tottenham; Wilson & Co, Tottenham; Henry Thompson & Sons, Grantham; T. V. Edwards & Co, Bow, Treasury Solicitor.

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Directors of insolvent company not personally liable for costs

Taylor v Pace Developments Ltd
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson
[Judgment May 1]

While it had been clearly established that section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 enabled the court to make an order for costs against a person who was not a party to the proceedings, it would seldom be appropriate to make such an order against the directors of an insolvent defendant company.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Mr Richard Taylor and others, against the dismissal by Mr John Lindsay, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Chancery Division, of an application by the plaintiffs, who were successful in their proceedings against the defendants, Pace Developments Ltd, for an order for costs, not only against the defendant company, which was insolvent, but also against Mr Nicholas Dobbs, the managing director and sole beneficial shareholder of the company. An identical question arising in relation to the costs of the fifth defendant to the company's counterclaim, Mrs Janet Golding, was decided in the same way.

Mr Richard McCombe, QC, for Mr Taylor and Mrs Golding; Mr Augustus Ulstein for Mr Dobbs.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that until recently it would have been unheard of for a

successful litigant to obtain an order for costs from a person who had not been a party to the proceedings. But *Aiden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk Ltd* [1986] AC 965 had changed the practice.

Section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this or any other Act and to the rules of court, the costs of and incidental to all proceedings in the civil division of the Court of Appeal shall be in the discretion of the court, and the court shall have full power to determine by whom and to what extent the costs are to be paid."

In *Aiden Shipping* the House of Lords, reversing the decision of the Court of Appeal, had held that the subsection was not subject to any implied limitation. The words "by whom" were not to be read as meaning "by which party".

In the instant case the judge had exercised his discretion in favour of Mr Dobbs. The question was whether the judge was right.

The judge had given leave to appeal and no doubt the reason leave had so readily been given was the reference in Lord Goff's speech in *Aiden Shipping* to the Court of Appeal laying down principles for the guidance of courts of first instance.

But for his Lordship's part he would hope that appeals on costs would not be more frequent than they ever had been. The danger of laying down too many principles for the guidance of judges was that they

tended to harden into rules. There was only one immutable rule in relation to costs, and that was that there were no immutable rules.

Mr McCombe submitted that the principle to be applied was that stated by Mr Rix, QC, in the course of his argument in *Shipping* (at p971) that the court should make the person substantially responsible for causing the costs to be incurred bear them.

His Lordship could not accept Mr McCombe's argument. He noted that Mr Rix's principle found no support in the speech of Lord Goff.

In any case it would be difficult to apply in the case of a one-man company. The controlling director of a one-man company was inevitably the person who caused the costs to be incurred, by causing the company to defend the proceedings.

But it could not be right that in every such case he should be made personally liable for costs, even if he knew that the company would not be able to meet the plaintiff's costs should the company lose its case.

That would be far too great an intrusion on the principle of limited liability. In the great majority of cases the directors of an insolvent company, which defended proceedings brought against it, should not be at personal risk for costs.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson agreed.

Solicitors: Holman Fenwick & Williams; Peter T. James & Co; Hamlin Slove.

Extending validity of writ issued but not served

The Moon
Where an *ex parte* application was made for the extension of the validity of a writ issued but not served, good reason had to be shown by the applicant as to why that writ ought to be extended.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Glidwell and Mr Justice Brice) so held on April 30 when allowing the appeal of the owners of the vessel *Mouna* against the decision of Mr Justice Stennett on March 22, 1990 to dismiss their application to set aside the order of the Admiralty Court made on Octo-

ber 6, 1989 to extend for 12 months the writ issued by the plaintiffs, owners of a cargo of wheat lately laden aboard the *Mouna*.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDWELL said that the negotiations between the parties for a settlement were not in itself a good reason for extending time for the validity of a writ.

If by words or by conduct one party led the other to believe that he would consent to an extension or that he in fact agreed to an extension then that could be a ground for inferring

an agreement. But something less than that was not enough.

There was no evidence that the shipowners had acquiesced or agreed to any extension. Their representatives had been content to negotiate but if time had slipped by it was not their responsibility.

The second dictum of Mr Justice Stennett in *The Owen* (1973) 1 L.L.Rep 56, 60 that it would be just to renew a writ where there had been implied agreement between the parties deferring service of a writ was not correct in law.

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 7 1991

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Importance of a Following

The recession has highlighted the importance of a 'following' to a solicitor's position both within his or her firm and in the job-market. I have heard some extraordinary stories of partners being released by fellow partners in spite of their impossible behaviour simply because they continue to bring in the work. Their colleagues, more hard-working, perhaps, and quite as competent, may be made redundant. They, however, remain - as irreplaceable as ever - secure in the knowledge that if they go their clients go with them. The worse the recession, the more secure they become.

In the job-market, too, the value of a following is now much greater. Vacancies for senior lawyers are no longer plentiful, but senior lawyers with loyal clients worth £200,000 or £300,000 a year will not be short of interviews. A following of £100,000 or less can also be attractive: a kind of modern dowry that helps to pay the salary. There is also the fact that a following confirms a candidate's standing with clients: it is the practitioner's ultimate testimonial. Estimating the size of a following is always difficult. There are so many variables: the nature of the clientele, the new firm's reputation/ location/change-out rates, divided loyalties to the candidate and the old firm, and the existence of restrictive covenants. Sole practitioners and independent branch offices are best able to assess their followings; least able, are the more junior solicitors in larger firms. But whatever their circumstances, it is clearly in every solicitor's interests, in these cold and calculating times, to foster close relations with clients.

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Closing date: 23rd May.
Initial interviews will be held on 6th June with final interviews on 24th June.

English Heritage

Talent for numbers adds up to a working formula

What do second world war U-boats, British Rail, and British Telecom's directory enquiries service and customs officers' efforts against drug smugglers have in common? They have all been the subject of operational research (OR) studies.

Operational research came to prominence during the second world war when its techniques were used to analyse the campaign against U-boats and plan air and sea defences.

Today, career opportunities within the field are increasing and the profession is changing. After the war, OR rapidly became established in manufacturing industry and now it is also used in central and local government, service industries and the financial sector.

Originally emphasising mathematical and statistical analysis, OR now uses a broader range of general management approaches, which are applicable at both strategic and policy levels. It is not surprising that the Operational Research Society says the field is a "significant recruiting ground for senior management talent".

OR practitioners help managers to reach better decisions by providing a research and advisory service. So, of course, do management consultants, accountants and systems analysts, but OR is at the

If you have a head for figures, solving a company's management problems could be your number, Beryl Dixon reports

analytical and quantitative end of the management services function, analysing and solving problems through various mathematical and computing techniques.

Forecasting models are used to determine the feasibility of certain courses of action after their accuracy has been tested by comparing them with known data. The end result is often a computer support system that managers can continue to use as circumstances change.

OR scientists are keen to stress, however, that there is much more to it than numbers. "People are at the same time our clients and our sources of information," says Dr John Ranyard, of British Coal.

"We deal with them at all levels, from interviewing staff during a survey to presenting recommendations to senior management."

Steve Halstead, a young graduate with British Airways, says talking to people and winning their confidence is central to what he does.

"There is never any status problem when talking to directors or senior managers because you go

in as a consultant with your own expertise," he says.

OR is used in many areas, including transport planning, forecasting sales for a new superstore, manpower planning and stock control. It is used particularly where large-scale problems of logistics are concerned — in oil production, defence planning and large-scale manufacturing, for example.

British Rail has OR teams working on projects that include evaluating InterCity's present methods of stocking buffet cars and the likely impact of the Channel tunnel on freight traffic.

The oil industry is a particularly heavy user of OR techniques, given the logistics of extracting and transporting oil, taking into account such variables as weather, political situations, insurance, shipping and labour costs.

More than 100 organisations recruit OR staff and they range from small consultancies up to British Gas, which has one of the largest OR departments in the

country. There is even an initiative known as Community OR, which provides advice to small organisations such as community housing projects.

Most entrants to OR are graduates but, surprisingly, a maths degree is not essential. However, although the profession draws on many disciplines, trainees must be happy working with numbers and computers.

The preferred degree subjects are maths, sciences, economics and business studies, although the exact subject required is at the discretion of employers.

British Rail and British Steel, for example, insist on maths or statistics, as does the Post Office, which also prefers a postgraduate qualification. The civil service and the Ford motor company accept degrees in numerate subjects, while British Coal accepts scientific or technical qualifications.

Training methods also vary with different employers. Some give trainees the opportunity to get an MBA or MSc. All provide in-house training because no OR manager is going to let raw graduates advise senior management unless satisfied with their communication and consultancy skills.

For further information, contact the Operational Research Society, Neville House, Waterloo Street, Birmingham B2 5TX.



Team player: Christine Pond, a British Coal operational research consultant, likes the responsibility

WITH a degree in managerial science, Christine Pond, aged 23, works in operational research (OR) for British Coal in Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

"I spent a year with them during my sandwich degree course and enjoyed working on projects there so much that I applied to join them when I graduated," she says.

"I operate as a consultant in one of several teams, which provide a service to any of British Coal's departments or collieries. We charge for our

PROFILE

service and are in competition with external consultancies, so I am continually promoting our service to British Coal's management.

"I enjoy the early responsibility I have been given and the variety. I am always working on several projects simultaneously."

These have included forecasting the amount of equipment, ranging from coal cutting machinery to conveyor belts, that collieries would need,

evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of contracting out certain services and looking at the effects of new European legislation on the coal industry.

"The people I talk to are as different as the projects — colliery and canteen managers, personnel and training officers, and senior managers," Ms Pond says.

"Quite often a project begins with an informal meeting with a client on site. People tell me what they need and would like, and I go away and work on it."

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH GLAMORGAN DE MORGANNWG

PROPERTY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The County Council has recently formed a comprehensive, service led, Property Services Department to operate on commercial, business and residential premises.

PROPERTY SERVICES MANAGER (DEVELOPMENT) ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGE AND BENEFITS (UP TO £30K)

This new post will lead the Property Development Division of the Department dealing with a property portfolio valued at over £200 million and will be responsible for the following groups of professional and technical staff:

VALUATION AND ESTATES PROPERTY REVIEW PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONDITION SURVEYS

The Property Services Manager (Development) will report directly to the Head of Property Services and will be a member of the departmental management team representing the Development Division and participating in the corporate decision making process.

The successful applicant will need to have extensive experience at a senior level of property management within a large, complex organisation; the ability to establish new working arrangements and procedures and the drive and commitment to produce results.

Applicants must possess a property related professional qualification and should preferably have a management qualification or extensive management experience.

VALUERS

A key group in the Development Division is the new Valuation and Estates Group which will be a small team of experienced professionals dealing with the acquisition and disposal of land and buildings, estate management, small holdings and agricultural estates.

GROUP LEADER (VALUATION AND ESTATES) ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGE AND BENEFITS (UP TO £27K)

A dynamic experienced Valuer is sought to lead this team of professionals in the full range of their work. A Chartered Surveyor with a minimum of 10 years general experience in Valuation and Estates Management and proven management skills is required for this post.

VALUERS

ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGE AND BENEFITS (UP TO £18K)

A number of experienced, professionally qualified valuers together with recently qualified Valuers, are needed to complement this team and provide a comprehensive Valuation and Estates service.

If you are experienced, interested in working as part of a new dynamic organisation operating on sound commercial business practices and providing a service to the County Council in relation to property management, these posts will be of interest to you.

Application forms are available from and should be returned to:

The Personnel Manager, Property Services Department, South Glamorgan County Council, Dwyer House, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA31 3JL. Tel: (01222) 237237 ext. 8007/8

Closing Date: Friday 31st May 1991

The County Council is committed to equality of opportunity in employment.





ENGLISH BASKET BALL ASSOCIATION

Chief Executive - Range £25,000-£35,000

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Executive of the English Basket Ball Association. Please send full personal and professional details, and the names of three referees, to The President, c/o The English Basket Ball Association, 48, Bradford Road, Leeds LS28 6DF, from whom further details may be obtained. Closing date for applications - 20th May 1991.

MANAGER: FUNDRAISING AND APPEALS

Circa £22-£25,000: plus use of car and other benefits.

Aids Trust is the nation's leading provider of adapted computer and communications equipment to people with disabilities.

Reporting to the Honorary Director, this post offers considerable autonomy, scope for creativity and initiative to candidates with at least four year's personal experience of corporate and trust fundraising and a sound knowledge of some other techniques, including legacies, direct mail, events and volunteer based fund raising.

The Charity also wishes to appoint a Press Relations and Marketing Executive (salary negotiable from £14,000) applications for this post will be considered upon the appointment of the Manager-Fundraising and Appeals.

For further information write to John Howlands, Honorary Director, Aids Trust, Aids House, 1 Albany Park, Cabot Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7BX

VIVAT TRUST

An active Historic Buildings Preservation Trust

70 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5JL
Tel: 0272 255371 Fax: 0272 255369

A Director/Secretary is required for one of Britain's most active Building Preservation Trusts to replace Janet Beaumont who has taken a post with the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Vivat was created in 1961 to find innovative solutions to secure the future of some of Britain's historic buildings at risk. Without benefaction or endowment Vivat has established an enviable record of success and is increasingly asked to intervene in difficult cases. Vivat's Director manages its affairs and oversees all aspects of its business from legal and financial to project management and fund raising. The job requires a person of exceptional energy and commitment, along with tact, negotiation and negotiating skills. Long days and long journeys are a common feature of the post.

Vivat is presently based in Bristol although this need not remain the case. The Director must hold a valid driving licence and enjoy good health.

The salary is £18,000 p.a.

Please send S.A.E. for details, with a daytime and evening telephone number to: VIVAT TRUST, 70 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5JL.

Hereford and Worcester County Council

Financial Management in Education

Salary up to £25,075

Education in Hereford and Worcester is a world of big budgets — around £230 million in this case — and over 400 small businesses as schools and colleges grapple with the rapid pace of change under the financial delegation arrangements of the Education Reform Act.

This key senior post will be heavily involved in budget preparation and monitoring, and the development of reporting and accounting systems across the entire Education service.

You will have substantial relevant experience, with a background in managing multi-million pound budgets at a senior level. An accountancy qualification would be an advantage. A knowledge of the Education finance sector would be helpful together with experience of managing and motivating support staff. You will be computer literate with a pragmatic and enterprising approach to handling ideas into action.

Based in the centre of Worcester, benefits — include a relocation package — plus those of any major public sector organisation. A current driving licence is essential.

Further information and an application form from: The Personnel Section, County Education Department, Castle Street, Worcester, WR1 3AG. Tel: Worcester (0905) 705834.

Closing date: 24th May 1991. Interview date: 12th June 1991.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

c.£70,000 + P.R.P.

We are looking for an outstanding person to succeed Bob McCloy who is retiring in November. The appointment would be for a four year term with possible extension by agreement.

Experience of running a large and complex organisation and the ability to work effectively in a challenging, political environment are essential. Candidates should have the personal qualities to make a distinctive contribution to the overall management of the Authority.

Information pack and application form from: Director of Personnel, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1EU. Tel: 081-546 2121 ext. 5150.

Closing date: 28th May 1991.

An equal opportunities employer

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

HEAD OF OPERATIONS

Up to £31,209

Glasgow City Council operates and manages one of the most comprehensive Leisure and Parks Services in the United Kingdom. With the onset of Compulsory Competitive Tendering of Recreation Management in 1992 there is a need for a Head of Operations to complete the preparation of the bids by the Direct Services Organisation to win the first and subsequent tranches of Leisure Management Contracts. With direct responsibility for managing Pools, Sports Centres, Children's Play Centres, Community Halls, Golf Courses and other associated outdoor and indoor facilities, you must create, develop and manage a competent and cost effective DSO, win tenders, and deliver the service to specifications in both defined and non-defined activities. The post requires a highly motivated Manager who is an achiever and self starter, with the ability to manage change in systems, operational methods and develop an enthusiastic staff.

Applicants will require to have a proven track record in Recreation Management, preferably in both Public and Private sectors and hold relevant qualifications in Recreation Management. In addition to an attractive salary, an excellent employment package is offered including non contributory life assurance, superannuation scheme and generous relocation expenses in appropriate cases. Assisted car purchase and car leasing available. Possession of a full clean current driving licence essential.

Application form and job description are available from the Parks and Recreation Department, Personnel Section, 20 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5ES (Tel: 041-227 5656), to be completed and returned by Friday 17 May 1991, quoting reference 14/COS/01.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER

Up to £57,000 plus benefits

Essex is one of the largest County Councils in the country with a population of 1.5 million, and with a gross budget of over £1 billion.

The current Deputy, Chris Duffield, has been appointed Director of Finance for the London Borough of Bexley.

His successor will be required to play a key role in the management of the council's financial affairs and the strategic development of financial and information technology services.

Applicants must possess a recognised accountancy qualification and have extensive senior management experience, preferably with a major local authority.

For an informal discussion please contact Keith Neale, County Treasurer, telephone: 0245 431000.

Further details and application form from County Personnel Offices, PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1LX, telephone 0245 432101. Please quote Post No EX02.

Closing date: 24th May 1991

Essex County Council

AWDURDOD ICHYD GWYNEDD HEALTH AUTHORITY

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SP10 £29,710 + PRP

This is a new post to lead, develop and implement the Authority's information and IT Strategy. The postholder will be required to plan, manage and develop information and IT services on a business basis as part of the District's Common Services Agency and to represent the Authority at All-Wales level.

Applicants should be managerially experienced, ideally having a post working knowledge of 325 and LAN technology and of UNIX based applications.

Clinical and/or commercial experience would be valuable and the ability to develop an information using culture in this bilingual Authority.

Informal enquiries should be directed to: Eleri Matthews 0245 37007 Ext 4116. General enquiries, John Potts 0245 674871 - telecommunications.

Job description and application forms from District Personnel Office, District Headquarters, Goad Manor, Bangor Gwynedd LL57 4TP. Telephone 0245 370025 Ext 277. Closing date 31 May 1991.

مساعدة الامم المتحدة

Cricket's masters sit in judgment on bat v ball

LISTENING to the Test and County Cricket Board (CCB) talk about its policy towards the county cricket season, which after a wet start gets going again on Thursday, is rather like listening to the government's line on inflation: just bear with us, by the end of the summer, the running/retail-price index will once again be down to acceptable levels.

The men at the ministry of cricket have virtually staked their reputation on the argument that all that was wrong was last summer, when even the number of batting records broken was a record, was the weather, which was so hot and dry that it tipped the balance drastically against bowlers. Barring a meteorological reprieve, the Board claims, this summer should demonstrate that the changes made to the pitch and the ball last year — in response to several summers dominated by batteries of seam bowlers — were indeed the right ones. But is the Board correct?

There are several indications that the CCB, in the best politicians' fashion, is in fact insisting on the wisdom of its long-term plans — which it feels were endorsed by England's Test successes last year — while at the same time subtly revising them.

One was the initiative by Derbyshire, Kent, Northamptonshire and Yorkshire that pitches this season should be uncovered. This would have immediately strengthened

The Test and County Cricket Board believes that the surfeit of runs last summer was a meteorological phenomenon, but Simon Wilde finds a divergence of opinion among the counties in the search for a balance between bat and ball

ended the hand of the bowlers by allowing the spinners to once again exploit rain-affected pitches. It was inevitable, though, that any move to place the game even more at the mercy of the elements would be regarded as commercially unpopular and the proposal was comfortably defeated at the Board's winter meeting.

After representations from the groundsmen, the Board has already altered the guidelines on the pitch it laid down so forcefully last year. The definition of what constitutes a suitable pitch has been broadened: the rather curious insistence on its appearance ("white or straw coloured") has been abandoned in favour of simply specifying how it must feel and play ("dry, firm and true, providing pace and even bounce," and helping spinners later).

The most telling sign of unease at what is happening, though, comes from the divergence of opinion among those directly involved: the players and officials on the county circuit. The impression gained from their accounts that all the Board has succeeded in doing is allowing moderately talented batsmen to win inflated

reputations, where once moderately talented bowlers did so.

Perhaps, like many a politician, all the Board is doing is blowing with the wind.

Derek Pringle (Essex and England seam bowler, the leading wicket taker in 1989, he took only 39 wickets last season) "They all said it was due to the weather last year. I'm not so convinced. It was more to do with over zealous pitch constraints. Some squares can't bear up over three or four days when they're dry and straw coloured; the ball ends up going through the top."

The so-called experts will say there is no quality bowling around and that is why batsmen scored so many runs last season. That's very true. The trouble with 1988 and 1989 was that with the bigger seam ball a lot of people prepared sub-standard pitches, which magnified the whole thing.

"I'm not so sure the Board was that keen on the changes. It was the counties who wanted to change. The Board is keen that if English cricket does well you keep that for

mula whatever it may be. I can't see that English cricket did well just because the ball was changed."

Barry Duddleston (first-class umpire and a member of this summer's Test match panel) "A lot of things came together last year: the ball, the pitches and the weather. Basically, I think it worked. For seven or eight years beforehand, you got very mediocre bowlers. Suddenly, good bowlers just by landing it on the seam and letting the wicket do the rest. What I call phantom seamers. As soon as they found they couldn't get five for 30, they gave up."

"By the second half of last season, sides were picking second spinners instead of fourth seamers. The longer it goes on, the more the right type of bowler will survive. I don't think you'll ever get a season quite like the first one, when all the wrong bowlers were being used and all the wrong team selections were being made."

"I don't think it [CCB] realised how much rigging of wickets had been going on. I think they got a shock to find out what a difference there was."

Stuart Anderson (secretary of Kent) "Before this happened, people

were crying out to see runs. Maybe there does now need to be a re-balance. Hopefully, the wicket preparation will go a little way towards restoring that."

"Nobody likes contrived finishes; the players don't, the members don't. It is a very undignified way of playing and is bad for the game. Although Kent have been instrumental in the retention of the mix of three-day and four-day cricket, there is a lot of debate about whether in future that will be the Kent position or whether we will swing behind the advocates of four-day cricket."

"When you've got batsmen who are quite clearly not of the highest calibre scoring a large number of runs regularly you have to ask some questions. You know very well that they are not as great as some of the players of the past. That in itself tends to devalue the game."

Nigel Briers (Leicestershire captain, who scored almost 2,000 first-class runs last season) "We had some good weather early on last season and it made the good pitches possible. It got players in to form early and when the normally good weather came later you could compile even more."

"The quality of batting was certainly better last season and it made some of the ordinary seamers bowl a lot better. You

couldn't get any old little seamer coming on and putting it on a length. They had to work harder for their wickets. Perhaps things slightly swayed towards the batsman. I'm sure the bowlers would say that."

Ron Allsopp (Nottinghamshire groundsmen, leading exponent of the "green" pitch in the Eighties) "The new definition about the pitch is fine. It was ridiculous about colours. I thought at one time they were going to give us colour charts."

"I don't think the balance between bat and ball is right. I think it's just swung the other way. I personally would love to get a better balance. I'm going to try and live them [the pitches] up a little bit but not to the extent of getting into any trouble. The dividing line is so thin. What you might be inclined to do is just play safe."

"I'm not blaming the Board for doing what it had to do. Things really had got out of hand with all those seamers bowling sides out. That wasn't particularly good for the game. We went too far. But don't let us just abandon last year, let's have another go before we start throwing things out."



Nigel Briers: "Bowlers had to work harder"

Day of reckoning dawns for the contenders in cup

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THIS is the day, each year, when the serious cricket watcher needs to pack a pocket calculator with his sandwiches and binoculars. After a fortnight of jockeying for positions, the eight quarter-final places in the Benson and Hedges Cup should be claimed by tonight, some of them only on minutely superior run-rate.

The value of this particular limited-overs competition is being increasingly debated within the game and its domination of the early weeks of the season is unarguably against the players' best interests.

But even for those, like myself, who would do away with it, there is an annual fascination in this fraught two-day span — the last scrap to qualify, followed, tomorrow morning, by the live radio draw which will always be fondly remembered for the

time it went furiously wrong. Of the 20 teams that set out in near freezing temperatures on April 23, four are definitely through to the last eight and six are definitely out.

The remaining ten have something to play for today, when six of the eight fixtures have a bearing on qualification.

The least complicated zone is group D, which has a play-off situation. The winners of the Glamorgan v Yorkshire match at Cardiff will go through with Hampshire and, as both had surprising wins over stronger opposition on Saturday, they might even draw a crowd on a ground where the relative successes of Alan Butcher's side are not yet reflected in attendances.

Kent should join Lancashire in progressing from group C.

Mark Benson's team plays Scotland at Glasgow, where

victory is many times more likely than for their rivals, Sussex, who must take their immature side to Old Trafford, possibly without their captain, Paul Parker.

Gloucestershire have the slowest run-rate of the three clubs contesting second place in group A, but may, paradoxically, be the likeliest to progress.

Their opponents today are Derbyshire, thoroughly inconsistent, at present, while Northamptonshire seem unlikely to end Worcester's 100 per cent record in one-day cricket.

A three-way tie will result if Derbyshire and Worcester are today's winners.

Still more confusing possibilities would have remained in group B if Middlesex had won yesterday, but defeat by Warwickshire, startlingly a third loss in four games for the county champions, has eliminated them and left Andy Lloyd's team favourites to join Essex in the knockout rounds.

Warwickshire, whose run-rate is the best in the competition, could even qualify if they lose at the Oval today, although then the calculators would be needed to separate them from Surrey and, if they can pass a forbidding examination at Chelmsford, Somerset.

Fine start on road back for Elliott

By a CORRESPONDENT

PETER Elliott brushed aside the British pretenders to his mid-distance crown with a comfortable victory in the mile at the General Forefile festival of road running at Gateshead yesterday. His supporters hope he has brushed aside his self-doubt just as easily.

The Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres gold medal winner has lost some of the confidence he once possessed — he said last year that he felt unbeatable every time he raced.

Things started to go wrong nine months ago when he was pushed and knocked over in the heat of the European championships. His progress has subsequently been hampered by a succession of injuries which started when he put his foot down a pot hole on a training run in Rotherham.

"I haven't been out on a run since December without some kind of problem," Elliott said after winning in 4min 02sec. "I wasn't enjoying my running. By coming here I was really putting my neck on the chopping block."

He hopes that this performance marks the turning point in his fortunes. "I'll go back and see if I get any reaction from my hip injury and decide what I do next then."

But everything this year is geared towards the world championships in Tokyo in August. "Nothing else really matters," Elliott said.

Frank O'Mara, of Ireland, had to change planes six times and spend more than 20 hours in the air just to make the start line at Gateshead. It did not affect his performance, though, in the 5,000 metres, as the best European, Martin, the United Kingdom 10,000 metres record holder, in an exciting finish.

O'Mara, the world indoor 3,000 metres champion, then had to start out again as he retraced his journey back to the United States. He is due to sit a law examination at the University of Arkansas tomorrow.

Martin, at least, held on to his title as Basilidon's No. 1 runner as he beat his training partner, Rob Denmark, into third.

In the women's mile, Ann Williams, of Sale, came through strongly to win as Kirsty Wade's legs buckled in the last few metres.

RESULTS: Men's mile: 1, P Elliott (Frisch) 4:02.3; 2, H Phillips (Frisch) 4:03.3; 3, J Gifford (Frisch) 4:03.3; 4, C Robb (Liverpool) 4:03.3; 5, N Henderson (Newport) 4:03.3; 6, M Martin (Basilidon) 4:03.3; 7, D Lewis (Rotherham) 4:03.3; 8, A Adams (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 9, A Williams (Sale) 4:03.3; 10, K Wade (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 12, J Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3.

WOMEN'S mile: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 4:03.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 4:03.3.

WOMEN'S 500 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 1:40.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 1:40.3.

WOMEN'S 1,000 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 3:20.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 3:20.3.

WOMEN'S 1,500 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 5:00.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 5:00.3.

WOMEN'S 2,000 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 6:40.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 6:40.3.

WOMEN'S 2,500 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 8:20.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 8:20.3.

WOMEN'S 3,000 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 10:00.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 10:00.3.

WOMEN'S 3,500 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 11:40.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 11:40.3.

WOMEN'S 4,000 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 13:20.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 13:20.3.

WOMEN'S 4,500 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 15:00.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 15:00.3.

WOMEN'S 5,000 metres: 1, Ann Williams (Sale) 16:40.3; 2, Kirsty Wade (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 3, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 4, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 5, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 6, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 7, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 8, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 9, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 10, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 11, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 12, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 13, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 14, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 15, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 16, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 17, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 18, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 19, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3; 20, D Gifford (Gateshead) 16:40.3.



Record going: Ralf unleashes the unexpected big one yesterday at Shizuoka

Finn takes Backley record

SEPPÖ Ralf, of Finland, removed Steve Backley's name from the record books by hurling the javelin 91.98 metres in Shizuoka, Japan, yesterday, a full metre further than the British throw last July.

At the same meeting, Sergei Bubka, of the Soviet Union, broke his three-year-old outdoor record in the pole vault with 6.07m, an improvement of one centimetre. At Grenoble on March 23 the Ukrainian had raised his own world record indoor mark to 6.12.

Bubka has set new heights in the pole vault ten times in succession outdoors and has improved his indoor record four times this winter, an unprecedented series of record breaking in athletics.

Both records caught the crowd by surprise, especially that of Ralf. The meeting appeared to be a warm-up for the world championships in Tokyo in August. The Finn, who is world champion, looked in indifferent form with opening throws of 77.68 and 77.36 metres.

Then he entered the record books, beating his personal best by more than five metres. "The

ground in the stadium was soft and didn't suit me on my first two throws," he added. "I have seen the ground in the Tokyo stadium and I think that will suit me better. I expect a lot in the summer."

Backley set his record of 90.98m last July 20. Said Aoutia, the world record-holder over 1,500 and 5,000 metres, finished a modest sixth in the men's 1,500 metres, only his second appearance on the track since a leg operation last year. He said he was pleased with the race, which he ran in 3min 45.89sec.

The French-German team of Jean Louis Schlesser and Jochen Mass, in a Mercedes, finished third, two laps behind Schlesser and Mass held first place in the world drivers' standings with 27 points each after two races.

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SWIMMING O'Connor family celebrates

IRISH eyes were smiling in the New Ross, Co. Wexford, house, hold of the O'Connor family last night after Adrian extended the tally of national backstroke records broken at the 12th Speedo meeting at Cardiff, by him and his sister, Niamh, to five (Craig Lord writes).

Before the closing session at the Empire Pool, Adrian and Niamh had broken two records each. The 200 metres (2min 5.65sec) and 50 metres (27.08sec) for him, the 50 metres (31.16sec) and 100 metres (1min 5.97sec) for her. Last night Adrian outdid his

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